

"The Fundamentals of Hand Therapy" may have been a better title for this book which has been written as a reference manual for those doctors and therapists whose practices include a limited number of hand patients.

Each of the thirteen chapters, which collectively cover most aspects of hand surgery, is set out in a similar way. The relevant anatomy, physiology and pathology of each condition is briefly discussed before the therapy is described in greater detail. Objectives are stated and sequential treatment schedules week by week are set out in detail. The final chapter concentrates on materials and splint manufacture with appropriate back references.

The text has been set out with sub-headings and contains many lists which make for quick and easy reference. There are numerous good quality, clear black and white photographs and excellent line diagrams. The inclusion of key references at the end of each chapter is laudable in a book of this size.

One or two features may puzzle the uninitiated. In the chapter on flexor tendon injuries, the appearance of elastic bands from finger to wrist may seem baffling as no mention of dynamic traction is made in the text.

The occasional illustration fails to deliver its message. On page 87 the reader is likely to be more impressed with the patient's tee shirt than with the splint, and on page 154 pinch grip function is demonstrated by a patient with a two-digit hand holding playing cards which advertise tobacco.

The importance of a team approach in the care of patients is well emphasised and it is particularly fitting that this doyen of antipodean hand surgery has co-operated with two of his therapist colleagues to record collectively their wide experience in this demanding type of surgery.

This book will not only be a worthy addition to any medical library but also deserves a place on the shelf of any clinical department involved in the management of hand conditions.

R. E. PAGE

1986 Year Book of Cancer. Edited by R. C. Hicky, R. L. Clark and R. W. Cumley. Pp. 494 with 109 figures. (Chicago, London: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc., 1986. Distributed by Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd., London). Price £43.

The Year Book series are a great boon to those of us (probably all of us) who are unable to keep up with the burgeoning number of journals that overflow the racks of our medical libraries. They present a sequence in *précis* of papers on selected topics published in the previous year, with helpful footnotes made by a member of the editorial board with special knowledge of a particular subject. In this volume, devoted to oncology, are to be found 33 chapters headed according to the anatomical site of a cancer, epidemiology, method of diagnosis, biology and style of treatment. At the end of each chapter is a list of references recommended for additional reading.

This reviewer is not qualified to judge which countries and departments lead the field in various aspects of oncology but it does seem that the text, like so many American publications, has a certain parochialism in its selection of worthy papers. Perhaps it is a reflection of the fact that only 8 of the 140 members of the editorial board work outside the United States

of America and that of those Americans 77 are from the State of Texas. But however the papers were chosen, the whole book provides a great source of invaluable postgraduate revision and education for the plastic surgeon who, in the course of pursuing the goal of surgical reconstruction, can so easily forget the biology of the original tumour and dismiss out of hand other primary and adjuvant methods of treating cancer.

The one disappointment is the brief and incomplete chapter on terminal care but, as the hospice movement is relatively new in the USA, one assumes that this subject will be covered in greater detail in future volumes.

Although few plastic surgeons are likely to buy this book for their personal library, it can be strongly recommended for access and referral in their local university or postgraduate medical library.

C. M. WARD

Advances in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Vol 3. Edited by Habal, Morraine, Lewis, Parsons and Woods. Pp. xvii+315 with 192 figures and tables. (Chicago, London: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc., 1987. Distributed by Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd., London.) Price £58.

This book sets out to provide the busy clinician with a method of keeping abreast of *advances* in plastic surgery. The Editors have invited selected authors to write to treatise on subjects in which they have a specific interest, to a level "not possible in more abbreviated journal review articles."

Nine chapters are presented by, in all, eighteen authors and five editors. The subjects include fasciocutaneous flaps, nipple areolar reconstruction, surgery to the cleft lip nose, bone grafting, haemangiomas, the scientific basis of skin staples, male pattern baldness and suction lipectomy. A short first chapter reflecting on advances in plastic surgery is of historical interest but does not contribute to the aims as set out in the statement of purpose.

The book is well presented with good style and a useful index. Some of the illustrations are of poor quality and before and after pictures are not always comparing like with like. Personally, I sometimes found the American style of expression rather heavy going. Typographical errors are few, though I had to smile at reference 14, on page 36, where the authors of "The anatomy of potential fasciocutaneous flaps in the forearm" included not only Lamberty B.G.H. and Gilbert D.A. but also Thames N.E.!

From the standpoint of the British trainee, this book is useful as a rapid method of gaining insight into these particular subjects, each of which is well provided with a long bibliography. However, there are some unfortunate omissions, for example, in an update on bone grafting I had looked forward to a comparison between vascularised and non-vascularised bone grafts. It was also irritating to read, on page 131, that the morbidity from anterior tibial bone grafts is minimal and on page 158, in the next essay, that "pain and restriction of mobility makes such a donor site unpopular", but these are two authors' differing views as was mentioned in the editorial comments. In all I felt that this book is worthy of a place on unit library shelves but it does not, however, match the clarity and usefulness of the similarly named *Recent Advances in Plastic Surgery 3* by Jackson and Sommerlad.

A. R. GREEN