

Methods and Concepts in Hand Surgery (BIMR Orthopaedics Volume 3). By Neil Watson and Richard J. Smith. First edition. Pp. 357 with 143 illustrations and tables. (London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington: Butterworths, 1986). Price £50.

This reference book is an excellent review of various aspects of hand conditions and appropriate surgery. The main authors have gathered together contributions from 12 leading hand surgeons on important topics and have themselves contributed in three of the chapters. The book is not unwieldy, is well illustrated and is an excellent source of references. It is good to see orthopaedic and plastic surgeons contributing in the same book. I am sure the orthopaedic surgeons will be delighted in David Evans's superb chapter on skin cover in the hand. Plastic surgeons, perhaps unsure of orthopaedic problems, will be well advised to study James Bennett's chapter on joint injuries. I found the chapters on the treatment of the hand in cerebral palsy, infections and the painful hand to be of considerable interest and, if only for these alone, the book is a must for all who are genuinely interested in hands and their problems. Obviously the views of the authors may be personal (and sometimes controversial) but the layout is tidy and the language concise. The standard of illustrations is also first class.

I can recommend this book without reservation.

J. C. MCGREGOR

Essentials of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. By Brian Morgan and Margaret Wright. Pp. 224, illustrated. (London: Faber and Faber, 1986). Price £5.95 paperback.

This paperback aims to provide an outline of plastic surgical care for nurses, paramedical staff and GPs, and does so admirably. The first few chapters cover basic principles in a concise text aided by clear diagrams, and the later chapters simply cover the spectrum of conditions managed by the specialty. A brief description of each problem is followed by a commentary on the nursing considerations and, where appropriate, on rehabilitation. A good balance is achieved, and whilst brevity is very much the order of the day the authors have not fallen into the trap of over-simplification. This volume will stand comparison well with other similarly priced, recently published paperbacks that have been aimed at the same audience.

P. M. DAVISON

Otolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery. Edited by Charles W. Cummings. Four volumes, pp. 3456 with 4033 illustrations. 245 contributors. (St Louis, Toronto: The C. V. Mosby Co., 1986. Distributed by Blackwell Scientific Publications, Osney Mead, Oxford). Price £251.

This publication is a major work of high quality. Under an Editor-in-Chief, each volume has its own Editor. While over 90% of the contributors are from the USA, also represented are

Canada, Europe, Japan and Australasia. Most of the authors are ENT surgeons, but numerous other specialists are represented including some dozen plastic surgeons.

In scope, the work sets out to be a definitive text on the specialty of oto-rhino-laryngology, and head and neck surgery. It is a detailed work of reference which has managed, in spite of its size, to be fully contemporary. Broadly, Volume 1 covers general subjects, Face and Nose; Volume 2 Mouth and Neck; Volume 3 Larynx/Trachea and Pharynx/Oesophagus; Volume 4 Ear and Skull Base.

Within a regional structure, the subject matter begins with the anatomy and physiology. Diagnostic assessment starts on a clinical basis, and the variety and value of imaging techniques are well documented. Congenital, infective, traumatic and neoplastic lesions are comprehensively described and the local manifestations of systemic diseases are given due consideration. Surgical procedures are well illustrated by line drawings but some duplication that occurs in different chapters should be eliminated in any subsequent edition.

Reconstructive methods concentrate on the musculocutaneous flap and while free flaps receive mention, this dimension could well be expanded in future.

The quality of production is excellent, the bibliography voluminous and these four volumes are a testimonial to the worth and work of all concerned. The price, though high, represents value for money and these books would be a worthwhile addition to libraries of Plastic Surgical Units.

A. D. R. BATCHELOR

Notes on our Reviewers

Alastair D. R. Batchelor, FRCSEd, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Bangour General Hospital, West Lothian.

Nicholas M. Breach, FDS, RCS, FRCS, Consultant Surgeon—Head and Neck/Plastic Surgery, The Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road, London.

Paul M. Davison, FRCS, Senior Registrar in Plastic Surgery, Bangour General Hospital, West Lothian.

A. Roger Green, FRCS, Senior Registrar, Mersey Regional Plastic Surgery Unit, Whiston Hospital, nr Prescott, Merseyside.

John C. McGregor, FRCS, FRCSEd, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Bangour General Hospital, West Lothian.

Robert E. Page, ChM, FRCS, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield.

Michael Poole, FRCS, FRACS, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Colin R. Rayner, MS, FRCS, FRCSEd, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Woodend General Hospital, Aberdeen.

Christopher M. Ward, FRCS, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, West Middlesex University Hospital, Isleworth, Middlesex.