

Earle Peacock's comment, "If you feed a horse enough oats, some may get through for the sparrows!"

The book is handsomely produced in the familiar style with large, clear print (important points now emphasised in blue), wide margins studded with clear photographs and drawings, and a number of full-page colour plates. References are collected at the end and there is a useful index.

This is a highly idiosyncratic work, full of the quirks and flamboyance that are typical of this most individual of teachers and writers and which have sometimes irritated his critics in the past. They may do so still. But it is exciting to read, indeed it is hard to put down and the message that is driven home is one which Dr Millard is uniquely qualified to give: never be content simply to be a "hole filler" but "Go for Broke" (Principle 32); always strive after perfection. The superb results shown in the illustrations are eloquent proof of his adherence to this, most important of his principles.

Reading this book brought back to this reviewer the sense of exhilaration which he experienced during the six months he was privileged to spend with the author, and which must have been known by all his trainees. Now it is possible for all to share in Dr Millard's enthusiasm. The young plastic surgeon will be stimulated by his quest for the highest standards and, with luck, the older and more jaded practitioner may be enticed out of his routine.

A. C. H. WATSON

Surgery of Facial Bone Fractures. Edited by Craig A. Foster and John E. Sherman. Pp. xvii + 285 with 271 figures. (New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne: Churchill Livingstone, 1987). Price £57.50. ISBN 0443 08436 X.

In the foreword to this book, a multi-author volume, Ian Jackson writes that the discerning have realised that there has been a glaring deficiency in the North American literature for a book describing the modern management of facial trauma. This book has been designed to fill that vacuum.

Most of us in times of need have readily turned to a well-thumbed Rowe and Killey and have been impressed by the most recent edition. Drs Foster and Sherman have edited a succinct and readable volume, which ranges from the evaluation of the injured patient to injuries of specialised structures.

This book is well illustrated with photographs, drawings and radiographs. The chapter references are comprehensive and adequately represent the world literature; there is also included a suggested reading list which is most useful.

Most chapters contain a section on the complications of the various injuries but little on the complication of treatment. Line diagrams ably show what is theoretically possible but their practical application frequently falls short of the ideal. This applies particularly to orbital and naso-lacrimal injuries. There is a practical discussion on the use of rigid internal fixation of mandibular fractures and rigid external fixation. Rather disappointingly, they are not compared and contrasted.

This is a commendable volume which will provide a ready, "not too heavy" reference book for those actively engaged in the treatment of facial injuries. The students and postgraduates will be well pleased. A place should be found for it on the library shelves.

N. M. BREACH

Year Book of Hand Surgery 1987. Edited by James H. Dobyns, Robert A. Chase and Peter C. Amadio. Pp. 330 with 89 figures. (Chicago, London: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1987). Price £36.50. ISBN 0 8151 2639 5.

Editors Dobyns, Chase and Amadio have called upon sixteen of their colleagues from the Mayo Clinic and Stanford University to act as reviewers of recent editions of some forty-one Journals. Publications relevant to Hand Surgery have been extracted, summarised, categorised and presented under eighteen chapter headings varying from Diagnosis and Evaluation to Compression Neuropathies and Arthritis, and ending in Research in Hand Surgery. Stress Syndromes, Anatomy and Biomechanics each now occupy a chapter in their own right. This Herculean task has been achieved with some speed and efficiency as the bulk of the publications appeared in the literature of 1985.

In spite of the many sources of the material and the many reviewers involved, the test has achieved a uniformly succinct consistency. The "guts" of each publication is presented as a piece of continuous prose, approximately a page in length, and is supported, where necessary, by illustrations copied from the original article. Most of the photographs and illustrations are of good quality, but figure 17.3 has not retained its clarity on reduction. A subject and author index permit rapid location of any particular topic of interest to the reader.

With an ever-increasing volume of hand surgery literature, the role of this book becomes indispensable. It provides for the busy practitioner a unique opportunity to familiarise himself quickly with a wide range of relevant publications. At a price of just above £36, this book deserves a place in all medical and departmental libraries and will be a revelation to those surgeons who find it difficult to delve beyond the mainstream Journals.

R. E. PAGE

Vascular Birthmarks—Pathogenesis and Management. Edited by Terence J. Ryan and George W. Cherry. Pp. xiii + 203 with 78 figures and tables. (Oxford, New York, Tokyo: Oxford University Press, 1987). Price £30. ISBN 0 19 261628 5.

This is a multi-author book written by a group of enthusiasts from both sides of the Atlantic and edited by two well-known authors from the dermatology department in Oxford. The preface states that the objective of the book is "to assemble current knowledge and management from all interested specialists, as well as to provide a thorough understanding of haemangiomas (vascular malformations)." This it achieves admirably, although I do have some reservations. I was sometimes left wondering if "vascular malformations" might have been a better title. A birthmark is, after all, something present at birth. The erudite discussion of acquired conditions in Chapter 4 is misplaced in the book with its present title. There are also problems with repetitions and inconsistencies that may stem from the multiple authorship.

The clarification of classification of vascular malformations by Pasyk in Chapter 1 is particularly welcome and thorough. It is based on the growth and involution of haemangiomas, as well as on the static or adynamic behaviour of port wine stains, and helps to clear the confusion of previous classifications. It was disappointing, therefore, to find that Pasyk's classification was not used throughout the book. For instance, the author in