

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

Chapter 2 used the term "superficial haemangioma" which is not mentioned in the preceding chapter at all.

The chapters on the roles of oestrogens and corticosteroids, surgery and the argon laser are very informative, although often repetitive. One longer chapter might have done as well and made for easier reading. I was surprised to find only one mention of the use of sclerosing agents, which was in the chapter on haemangiomas of the hand and forearm. Also, there was no discussion at all of the role of injection with hypertonic saline in promoting early resolution—a method used in some British plastic surgery units. I particularly enjoyed the short chapter, "Why does treatment improve port wine stains?" Its discussion of the different types of scar produced by different invasive methods of treatment, and of the various cosmetic camouflages that are available, was helpful. This chapter also introduces the infra-red coagulator, a radiant energy source producer, which is starting to produce good results.

This is a key monograph on a very important group of conditions and will be an invaluable reference source for all those called upon to manage them. The lack of coloured illustrations and relative sparsity of black and white ones is a little disappointing but may have helped to bring the price down to an affordable £30.

This is a book to which every plastic surgeon should have ready access.

J. H. PALMER

**Rob & Smith's Operative Surgery.** Fourth Edition. Edited by T. L. Barclay and D. A. Kernahan. Pp. 763, illustrated. (London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington: Butterworths, 1986). Price £135. ISBN 0 407 00664 8.

It is now 7 years since the previous plastic surgery volume of the *Operative Surgery* series was published and during that time there have been many advances in the field of plastic surgery. Perhaps for this reason the reviewer approached this large volume with a sense of anticipation. This feeling, however, was short-lived when it became clear that much of this book was in fact a re-print of the third edition [25 out of the 62 contributions].

Some chapters are lamentably old-fashioned and out of date. The microvascular chapter in particular is of historical interest, dealing with flaps such as the delto-pectoral flap, the groin flap and the lateral thoracic flap and with operative techniques which have largely been superseded by the advent of more reliable donor sites.

Chapters on basic plastic surgery technique including skin grafting, bone grafting and wound closure would have benefited from a fresh approach. Even the inclusion of what could be regarded as "classic articles" by Mustardé, McGregor and Millesi seems hardly warranted in a book of this expense.

The introduction of different authors has brought some life to this edition but, unfortunately, they are insufficient in number. The section on cleft lip and palate, for example, includes the repairs of Dr Peter Randall and Mr D. O. Maisels, but the rest of this section is a re-working of some of the chapters from the third edition.

The Editors have, however, managed to introduce some advances in plastic surgery, particularly in the use of muscle, musculocutaneous and fasciocutaneous flaps. In addition, there is a section on tissue expansion in reconstructive surgery. Aesthetic plastic surgery is better represented with new chapters

on cosmetic rhinoplasty, blepharoplasty and face lift. The largest new section in this edition concerns benign and malignant lesions of the head and neck and includes intra-oral carcinoma, parotidectomy, neck dissection and craniofacial surgery. Further new chapters include the pectoralis major musculocutaneous flap, the latissimus dorsi musculocutaneous flap in head and neck surgery and the nasolabial flap.

As in many multi-author texts, there is great variation in the quality of the contributions and this applies not only to the text but also to the illustrations and the use of references, all of which serve to emphasise the lack of uniformity of presentation in this book.

It is an enormous task to cover the field of plastic surgery in a single volume text and there is perhaps a natural conflict between presenting tried and tested methods of reconstruction which include basic information for teaching purposes and at the same time presenting a moderate profile which includes the major advances and the new operative techniques available in plastic surgery.

This volume has relied too heavily on re-prints from the third edition and material which is already well known and widely published. It is therefore difficult to know who will benefit from the book and even more difficult to recommend any individual spending £135.

D. S. SOUTAR

**Long-term results of Craniofacial Surgery.** Edited by Jeffrey Marsh. Pp. 128 with 105 figures and tables. (American Cleft Palate Association, 1987. Distributed by Blackwell Scientific Publications, Osney Mead, Oxford.) Price £25. ISBN 1 55664 027 7.

This little book contains a selection of papers from an International Symposium on this topic held in New York in May 1986. Subscribers to the *Cleft Palate Journal* will have received an identical, but soft-cover, copy of this already as a supplement to volume 23 of that Journal.

All the papers are concerned with long-term growth in patients after treatment of various craniofacial malformations. The papers are separated into groups under the headings Craniosynostosis, Hypertelorism, Hemifacial Microsomia, and Craniofacial Dysostoses. At the end a keynote address given at the meeting is reproduced.

Most interesting papers are the report by Marsh and Vannier on cranial base changes after surgical treatment of craniosynostosis, beautifully demonstrated by 3D-CT images; a discussion on the factors influencing long-term results of treatment of hemifacial microsomia by Vergervik and others; and a collection of studies on the stability of and growth after Le Fort III facial advancement in craniofacial dysostosis. There is also a brief report of some patients 2 to 4 years after treatment of Treacher Collins syndrome by the procedure of Tessier.

Now that the time has come when those involved in craniofacial surgery are able to look back and assess the longer term results of these procedures, such reports as this are welcome. Although the number of cases in some of the papers is small, there is something to be learned from each presentation in this book. Let us hope there will be more seminars on the subject of long-term results such as this in the future.

M. D. POOLE