

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Some chapters are lamentably old-fashioned and out of date.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delto-pectoral flap, the groin flap and the lateral thoracic flap and with operative techniques which have largely been superseded by the advent of more reliable donor sites.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.

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