

Book Reviews

Microsurgical Anatomy. Edited by Zhong Shizhen, Han Yongjian and Yen Wenchun. Pp. xi+473, illustrated. (Lancaster: MTP Press Ltd., 1985). Price £89.95.

I started to read this book with some feelings of condescension. Glossy, expensive Western texts may lead one to equate polished presentation with refinement and achievement in learning. The substance of this book is solid, with much original new work, aiming to evaluate anatomical factors that could be clarified to expand microsurgical technique. The book is given philosophical direction by its aim to produce better clinical results by a deeper practical understanding of the anatomy in the interface between histological morphology and gross anatomy.

The illustrations are of the "blackboard drawing" type and seem ordinary, even crude, until the accompanying text is carefully read in conjunction with them. They then powerfully reinforce the text.

I finished my reading of this text with a considerable sense of humility at the sustained effort that must have been required by so many people to do good work in difficult circumstances. Apart from the valuable scientific content, it has an even greater value. It serves to remind one that ideas cross boundaries, that isolation is not synonymous with intellectual sterility—quite the reverse.

C. R. RAYNER

Hand Trauma. By D. Buck-Gramcko, R. Hoffmann and R. Neumann. Pp. 176 with 213 illustrations and tables. (Stuttgart: Hippokrates-Verlag, 1986). Price DM 118.

This is an excellent book originally published in German and its translation into English has been achieved smoothly and comfortably. There is nothing lost in the translation nor is there anything that is second-hand.

The preface refers to the deliberate omission of a chapter dealing with insurance and compensation. Accepting that most countries have their own ways of dealing with the subject, I am sure that many hand surgeons would nevertheless have been interested in comment on a subject such as this which forms a significant part of most hand surgeons' work.

It is difficult to find any significant criticism other than to suggest that some reference to the absence or presence of sweating should have been included in examination of the hand for nerve injury.

The descriptions of operative techniques and other pre- and post-operative directions are excellent. These are written without ambiguity and provide concise, authoritative directions for virtually every common situation found in hand trauma.

The recurrent references to the consequences of poor management and the further emphasis on not only informed comment but on information to the patient throughout his management, are matters that do not receive attention in most other textbooks on the subject. The chapter on regional anaesthesia is particularly well written and obviously based on wide experience.

It is my pleasure to recommend this book strongly and if a Casualty Department was to have one book only dealing with hand trauma, this should be the choice.

J. COLVILLE

The Facial Nerve. By Mark May. Pp. xiv+819 with 560 figures (some in colour) and 81 tables. (Stuttgart, New York: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1986). Price DM 248.

This book is a multi-author text which presents in some 800 pages an in-depth review of the pathology and management of the facial nerve. It begins with applied basic science, progressing through clinical evaluation, patho-physiology, differential diagnosis, special tests and the treatment of specific disorders. The principal author has some 20 years' experience, managing some 1500 patients with facial nerve pathology, and has written chapters in each section of the book. Most of the other authors are ENT surgeons and therefore intra-temporal pathology features strongly. Those interested in the facial nerve will find it a comprehensive clinical source, particularly with regard to the basic sciences and disease entities causing paralysis. Most of these chapters are well written and thoroughly researched, although as with any multiple author publication, repetition is difficult to avoid. It is in the area of treatment of facial palsy where the plastic surgeon is perhaps particularly interested. The authors accept that there is no general consensus to support any one of the treatments for the disorders reported.

The chapters on hyperkinesia and blepharospasm are particularly interesting and well presented. As the reader proceeds through the chapters on treatment, however, there is little new. Eyelid springs are favoured and some nice techniques for their introduction suggested.

Interpositional nerve grafts are clearly popular and successful if carried out early. Experience with crossed facial nerve grafts are more doubtful, however, with only occasional successful outcome. The "old faithfuls" of temporalis and masseter transfer still have pride of place for the delayed reconstruction. The importance of putting these transfers in under considerable positive tension is emphasised. The authors are honest enough to criticise these techniques and present their weaknesses. Virtually no mention is made of the newer techniques of free muscle grafting with or without microvascular anastomosis. The preponderance of American authors may account for this and reflects the rather slow adoption of these techniques in the United States, possibly from fear of litigation. In volumes of this size and scholarship one seeks answers to the thorny problems that prove refractory to treatment such as epiphora. The authors favour partial resection of the lacrimal gland, which unfortunately does not seem to give particularly reliable results in practice. Nevertheless the authors clearly accept that many of these techniques are controversial and concepts are continually evolving. The book forms a useful reference volume providing a view of the subject from a slightly different angle for the plastic surgeon, and therefore is of considerable interest to those involved in the treatment of facial palsy.

D. H. HARRISON

Lifetime Care of the Paraplegic Patient. First edition. Edited by Sir George M. Redbrook. Pp. xiv+263 with 72 figures and 34 tables. (Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1985). Price £32.

Management of the paraplegic patient is described by specialists ranging from an administrator writing about vocational rehabilitation to microbiologists writing about prevention and management of infection.

This is hardly a book for the plastic surgeon—even one

treating patients with pressure sores. Its message is the need for the availability of medical, surgical, nursing and all the ancillary services—coordinated by dedicated paraplegic specialists. A monograph would be enough to convince any one of these specialists (including the plastic surgeon) of the need to share responsibility and would indicate when and where help should be sought. None of the chapters—with the possible exception of the one on infection—could instruct a specialist in one discipline how to manage the paraplegic patient in another specialised field. The director of a paraplegic unit might possibly benefit from an overview of medical, surgical, nursing, therapeutic and biomechanical expertise, although one would assume that he was already acquainted with the social and community aspects of paraplegia.

Hand surgery for tetraplegics is considered briefly in Chapter 3 by an orthopaedic surgeon who echoes Moberg's feelings about simplicity, and very briefly in Chapter 13 by an occupational therapist.

As plastic surgeons we are not primarily involved with the long-term management of paraplegic patients although we should be aware of the hazards. For this reason Chapter 5 in which the problems of oedema, contracture and spasticity are discussed is valuable, although the section on "Decubiti" reveals nothing new. There are important warnings for the "occasional sore surgeon" that flaps should be designed to allow further plastic surgery and that musculocutaneous and free flaps are a last resort in surgical management.

The prevention of pressure sores is considered in Chapter 12 at "pressure clinics". In Chapter 13 the bio-engineering aspects of wheelchairs and contour cushions are discussed and the enormous saving effected by their careful management is impressive.

Any consultant anaesthetist reading Chapter 4 would avoid mistakes made by the pioneers and gain the advantage of years of hard won experience.

Chapter 8—on the prevention and management of infection in the paraplegic patient—was the most valuable for me, perhaps because of its applicability to other problems encountered in plastic surgery. It could be read with advantage by all surgical trainees.

B. N. BAILEY

A Colour Atlas of Cleft Lip Surgery. By R. J. Maneksha. Pp. 63 with 121 illustrations. (Ipswich: Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd, 1986). Price £14.

Dr Maneksha has produced for Wolfe Medical Publications an account of his experience of primary and secondary repair of the unilateral cleft lip, largely by the Millard technique, over three decades. After an introduction to embryology and anatomy, the steps of an operation are superbly shown in colour followed by a number of colour photographs of pre- and post-operative results. The steps of secondary correction are also shown. Perhaps for lack of space the problems of nasal correction receive little attention although lateral crus advancement, lateral wall Z-plasty and nostril in roll are referred to. A small list of references and an index complete the publication.

In considering to whom this book would appeal it must be said that it, like most atlases, lacks detail for the committed plastic surgeon while of great interest as a record of a personal concept of this complex problem. Where cleft lip surgery must

be performed by the general surgeon the excellent illustrations would form a most valuable guide.

R. W. PIGOTT

Surgery of the Breast. By J. O. Strömbeck and F. E. Rosato. Pp. xvi + 336 with 335 illustrations and 46 tables. (Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1985). Price DM 298.

This is a well illustrated book containing 30 chapters covering various aspects of the diagnosis and treatment of breast diseases. Its stated aim is to integrate, review and update the contributions of all the specialists in the management of diseases of the breast and this is by and large achieved. The authors are from both Europe and North America and though this has broadened the scope of the book it has inevitably led to some inconsistencies in style and language. The editors admit that though they have tried to confer a unity of style, the rigours of translating the contributions have resulted in some unevenness and, in addition, some overlap in material.

Clinical examination, mammography and fine needle aspirate cytology are techniques now being used in most breast clinics as the initial diagnostic tests and are appropriately discussed in depth in the first two chapters. Other diagnostic methods (ultrasound and thermography) are discussed and their places in the screening and management of breast diseases are well reviewed.

The screening of well women by mammography for the detection of early breast cancer has resulted in an increasing number of cases of mammographic lesions considered suspicious of cancer but not associated with a palpable lesion. The techniques of biopsy of these non-palpable lesions are fully described.

There are further excellent chapters on inflammatory lesions of the breast, the pathology of malignant breast disease, the epidemiology and prognosis of breast cancer in pregnancy and carcinoma of the breast.

The various surgical procedures for the treatment of primary breast cancer are described in detail and well illustrated. The schematic survey of the different treatments of breast cancer is rather confusing and would have benefited from being expanded. I would not agree with some of the options suggested, e.g. radical mastectomy with radiotherapy, which is associated with an unacceptably high incidence of lymphoedema.

The principles and techniques of postmastectomy reconstruction, subcutaneous mastectomy, reduction mammoplasty, breast augmentation and the inverted nipple are well described. The format of the book being between that of an atlas and a standard textbook particularly lends itself to the description of these plastic surgical procedures. There are, however, some deficiencies: tissue expanders which are increasingly used for breast reconstruction (either at the time of mastectomy or as a delayed procedure) are not mentioned; immediate reconstruction of the breast has been dismissed in a few lines and I am uncertain of the factual basis of the statement that "patients having an immediate reconstruction often are dissatisfied as they never had to live with the disfigurement caused by the mastectomy and are less apt to appreciate the reconstructed breast". However, there are areas covered in this book that are often missed out in standard works, e.g. secondary lymphoedema and male breast cancer which are each given a chapter and are excellently reviewed.

I would recommend this book to all specialists dealing with breast diseases.

U. CHETTY