



Book Reviews

Complications in Head and Neck Surgery. Edited by Yosef P. Krespi and Robert H. Ossoff. (Philadelphia, London, W B Saunders Co., 1993). ISBN 0-7216-2980-6. Pp xviii + 582, ill. Price £57.00.

Over the past three years the *British Journal of Plastic Surgery* has published 7 reviews of books in the field of Head and Neck Surgery. The majority of these volumes are multi-author publications. We may well now ask whether we have reached saturation point in relation to these edited volumes related to head and neck surgery? I suspect there is a need for short single author volumes, by experienced senior colleagues, in which they describe their tips and the pitfalls in head and neck and reconstructive surgery.

The preface tells us that the present volume is a successor to John Conley's best selling book of the same name published 15 years ago. It is to be noted that this volume contains 65 pages related specifically to 'Aesthetic Facial Surgery' and 62 pages devoted to 'Maxillo-Facial Trauma'; perhaps surprisingly, for both these topics are usually excluded from books on Head and Neck Surgery.

In common with most tomes relating to this subject, chapters by plastic surgeons are conspicuous by their absence. In this volume, of the 54 authors only one is a plastic surgery fellow.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary a complication is 'an event or act that complicates or frustrates' or a 'disease arising as a consequence of another'. In most of the chapters the different authors have not restricted themselves to describing the complications of head and neck surgery but have ranged widely over their topic area. The text is consequently repetitive and somewhat laboured and also at times contradictory. For example, we are advised skin incisions in neck dissections should be placed away from the great vessels and never cross them in an effort to prevent a carotid blowout. Yet the recommended skin incision inevitably crosses the great vessels.

Surprisingly, the chapter devoted to 'Facial Reanimation Surgery' contains no description of, or reference to, free vascularised muscle grafts, let alone the complications of this technique. This is a grave error, particularly when much of the chapter is devoted to hyoglossal crossover and dynamic muscle flaps.

I do not feel inclined to recommend this book for either the individual or the library in spite of its being well presented and produced.

N. M. BREACH

The Larynx. 2nd edition. Edited by Harvey M. Tucker. (NY, Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc.: NY, Stuttgart, George Thieme Verlag, 1993). ISBN 0-86577-437-4. Pp x + 326, ill. Price \$99.

In the first edition Dr Tucker set out to write a single text in which the majority of what one might need to know about the larynx might be found. In this, the second edition, many of the chapters have been updated and the book has been expanded to include voice pathology and a detailed section on imaging of the larynx.

Dr Tucker's extensive experience in laryngology is clear from the outset and he has written the majority of the book himself. Some specific chapters have been written by recognised experts in their field but despite this there is a uniformity and clarity throughout the text. There are extensive margin notes in the style of Talmud and these prove very effective in highlighting specific points of interest.

The book opens with a section on the anatomy of the larynx and here excellent line diagrams and the judicious use of colour are most effective. The next two chapters deal with embryology, developmental anatomy and physiology of the larynx. There follow chapters on pathological conditions, with an extensive chapter on

laryngeal pathology which uses statistics from the tumour registry of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Basic epidemiological information is included, together with pathological and histology and an outline of the treatment of choice. There is a detailed chapter on diagnostic imaging of the larynx which is very well illustrated and perhaps reflects the importance the author places on this type of investigation. The following two chapters are again concerned with diagnosis, one dealing with voice pathology and the other dealing with laryngoscopy, endoscopy and special techniques.

The remainder of the book deals with specific pathological conditions of the larynx and includes chapters on congenital disorders, laryngeal trauma, degenerative disorders, infectious and inflammatory disorders, neurologic disorders, voice disorders and phonosurgery, benign neoplasms and malignant neoplasms. In these chapters a uniform format has been adopted which includes an introductory section which outlines the different pathological disorders, followed by a section on diagnosis and finally management and treatment. The final chapter on malignant neoplasms, for example, includes an excellent historical and epidemiological review and outlines the pathological conditions and classification so important in discussing malignant disease.

Unfortunately extensive laryngeal surgery is not covered at all in this text, with no mention of radical pharyngolaryngectomy and the problems associated with its reconstruction. One further omission from an otherwise excellent text is rehabilitation following laryngeal surgery. Techniques of creating tracheo-oesophageal fistulae, the variety of prosthetic valves and devices, and neoglottic type operations are not discussed. Similarly, the importance and contribution of speech therapists and speech scientists in rehabilitation has not been adequately covered.

Despite these criticisms this is a very good book which is beautifully produced by Thieme publishers. It is well set out with excellent use of line diagrams and illustrations. The quality is what one would expect from Thieme publishing and at \$99 represents very good value for money. This is a book to be recommended for those interested in laryngology and if there were to be a third edition, one would hope that this would expand to include more extensive and radical laryngeal surgery and rehabilitation.

D. S. SOUTAR

Liposuction and Aesthetic Surgery. By Gerald H. Pitman. (St. Louis, Quality Medical Publishing, Inc., 1993). ISBN 0-942219-18-X. Pp xx + 478, ill. Price \$225.00.

Dr Gerald H. Pitman, MD, has produced an excellent volume on liposuction and aesthetic plastic surgery. The first part of the book consists of five chapters dealing with initial consultation, patient selection, instrumentation, and the surgical techniques of liposuction. The second half deals with 'operations by anatomic area'. The volume is well presented and beautifully illustrated with black and white drawings and photographs, many of which are in colour. The issues of informed consent and of complications are adequately covered, and each chapter is followed by a list of appropriate references and suggested readings.

This book is clearly intended for the practising plastic surgeon as well as the surgeon in training. The author succeeds admirably in his purpose of sharing with his colleagues his experience over the last ten years in the field of liposuction, and its application to aesthetic surgery. It is well produced in terms of the quality of the printing, binding, illustration and layout, and at \$225.00 is good value for money. Every surgeon, practising or learning the techniques of liposuction and aesthetic surgery, should have a copy of this book.

J. H. GOLDIN