

burn injury would be more appropriate in this chapter. In addition, to classify burns simply as 'minor' or 'major' based in adults on a burn size greater than or less than 20% in the United Kingdom is inappropriate.

Some of the diagrams throughout the book are of extremely poor quality and a lot of the data is borrowed from previous publications and other authors. I was somewhat concerned about the positioning of escharotomies in full thickness burns, not least because, around the wrist, the ulnar nerve would be at risk of surgical division. There is a lot of needless repetition throughout the book, particularly on resuscitation. The chapter on 'Fluid Resuscitation' is probably unique in that it incorporates the commonly used U.K. formula in addition to two American techniques and this is probably the best feature in the book.

There are chapters on paediatric care and on infection in burned patients. Both of these make no mention of Toxic Shock Syndrome, which is occurring more frequently in U.K. units, and which it is vital to recognise and treat at an early stage. A brief paragraph is mentioned right at the end of the book, but does not carry the relevant references.

There is a visible omission regarding recommended antibiotic guidelines for use in Burn Units and there is no mention of the commonest organisms inhabiting burns both in the U.K. and in America. If this book is designed for a non-burn trained clinician operating in a remote hospital, then this would have been useful. There are some other obvious omissions, such as the management of chemical burns, but clearly one cannot be too critical of this book as it is only 200 pages. There are times when it is immensely simplistic and there are some chapters which diversify into extreme rarities which are not that relevant to this type of book.

The physical presentation of the book is good. It is not quite small enough to be carried in the pocket of a junior hospital doctor, but then it is not really a practical guide that would be of use in the emergency situation. The printing quality is good and easy to follow.

At £35.00, it is a very cheap book but there are many that are only slightly more expensive which contain more adequate information.

I do not think this book is UK oriented enough to be relevant to working practice in the British Burns Units and I don't think it is relevant to trainee burn surgeons in America, as there are many more detailed publications relevant to their system of management. It is a sad fact that the British and American systems of burn care management are so different that this book is relevant to neither.

J. D. FRAME

The Surgical Management of Deformities in Leprosy and Other Peripheral Neuropathies. By Noshir H. Antia, Carl D. Enna and Behman M. Daver. (Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Oxford University Press, 1992). ISBN 0 19 563058 0. Pp. viii + 162, ill. Price Rs. 475.

The authors of this book make a statement in the preface that "their combined experience dates to the fifties and they have thus been able to overview the development of reconstructive surgery in leprosy from its very inception. The result is a fund of information and practical knowledge which will be useful to all surgeons working with patients with peripheral nerve disease".

This will appear to be fully justified to anyone who reads the book. It is written in lucid, simple English, is packed from cover to cover with an enormous fund of useful information, and the numerous illustrations, particularly the line drawings, are a delight and are extremely useful in understanding the subject. The clinical photographs are a shade inferior but the printing is workmanlike and accounts for some less than ideal reproductions. Written in a style somewhere in between a handbook and a text book, this will be invaluable for any clinician engaged in any form of reconstructive surgery in this area. The book is sold in India for Rs. 475/- (approximately £10) and is a virtual windfall. It is also reassuring to know that simple inexpensive books such as these can be so worthwhile. One's only regret is that the scope of the book did not allow a chapter on epidemiological and social and preventive aspects of the disease for which the first author of the book has won laurels in India.

R. THATTE

Notes on our Reviewers

Mr J. D. Frame, FRCS, FRCS (Plast), Consultant Plastic Surgeon, NE Thames Regional Plastic Surgery Unit, St Andrew's Hospital, Billericay, Essex CM12 0BH.

Mr J. H. James, FRCSEd, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Shotley Bridge General Hospital, Consett, Co Durham DH8 0NB.

Alan D. McGregor, MD, FRCS(G), FRCS(Plast Surg), Consultant Plastic Surgeon, St Lawrence Hospital, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 5YX, UK.

Mr J. K. Stanley, MCh Orth, FRCS, FRCSE, Consultant Upper Limb Surgeon, Upper Limb Unit, Wrightington Hospital for Joint Disease, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, Lancs WN6 9EP.

Ravin Thatte, Hon. Professor & Head, Department of Plastic Surgery, Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College, Sion, Bombay 400 022, India.