



Book Reviews

Rigid Fixation of the Craniomaxillofacial Skeleton. Edited by M. J. Yaremchuk, J. S. Gruss and P. N. Manson (1992, Butterworth-Heinemann; Boston). Pp xvi + 696. Case Bound. Price £175.00. ISBN 0-7506-9197-2.

The pace of change and innovation over the last two decades in the surgical management of maxillofacial injury, congenital and developmental facial deformity, craniofacial anomaly and tumours in this region, which has been afforded by the ever increasing use of direct rigid-fixation systems, requiring as they do direct open surgical access to the facial skeleton, has been truly remarkable. This book is therefore timely, giving the views and wide clinical experience of enthusiastic advocates from several disciplines. Whilst not a reference work, it gives a much needed overview and reference point as to the state of development of this area of clinical practice in North America in particular and in the developed world in general. The book has one further stated aim: to provide an atlas of the surgical procedures as well as diagnostic and clinical guidelines for their application.

One has learnt to expect large, comprehensive, multi-authored, beautifully produced and lavishly illustrated text books from the USA and this one is certainly no exception. The book is edited by three well-known and respected clinicians, who make major contributions themselves, together with contributions from 53 senior clinicians largely, but not exclusively, drawn from North America. There is, it must be conceded, a significant and noteworthy contribution from our colleagues in Europe. The subject of rigid fixation of the craniomaxillary skeleton is comprehensively and exhaustively covered in this textbook, with a considerable number of illustrations enhanced by six full pages of colour plates.

The book is divided in three main sections; Part I, *Basic concepts of rigid fixation* (7 chapters); Part II, *Implant systems for rigid fixation of the craniomaxillary skeleton* (6 chapters); Part III, *Clinical applications* (40 chapters). Part III is further subdivided into *Trauma* (19 chapters), *Orthognathic Surgery* (6 chapters), *Congenital craniofacial deformity* (7 chapters) and *Tumors* (8 chapters).

Within this book involving much which is new, developing and evolving there are bound to be some contentious and unresolved issues. The place of bone plating in the management of cranial deformities in infants is one such area. We have yet to learn the long-term effects of metal bone plates and implanted material in the growing child with regard not only to their effect on growth but also to their possible toxicity over a lifetime. Problems of stability in craniofacial surgery may encourage plates to be positioned in situations where their retrieval is impossible without further major surgery. These considerations make the intracranial positioning of plates as shown in Fig. 41.12 especially worrisome and demand further research and meanwhile, caution.

Despite these reservations this is an excellent book which will be welcomed by all those interested in this area of surgery, as it encompasses the views of experienced clinicians in various related specialities and as such is a source of invaluable information. This book should be available within specialist departmental libraries, and will be required reading both for experienced surgeons and those in training.

M. J. C. WAKE

Plastic Surgery Review. Edited by Alan R. Shons and Robert M. Jensen. (Philadelphia, London, WB Saunders Co., 1993). Pp xiv + 400. ISBN 0-7216-4730-8. Price £47.00.

This book is a sixty-two chapter compendium of well over one thousand multiple choice questions covering the whole spectrum of plastic surgery. The sections are written by specialists in their own fields. Each question is followed by a discussion presented in a short, lucid and readable block of text, followed immediately by the answer. A useful reference is also given after each question and since the majority of these relate to McCarthy's eight volume compendium *Plastic Surgery* and one or two other standard texts, follow-up study and verification of the discussion points is greatly facilitated for those who have these works on hand.

The book is not aimed specifically at any particular examination. Rather, as the editors suggest, it is to stimulate the pursuit of information, provide a measure of the reader's current proficiency and to give direction for efforts towards self improvement. It is well produced in large (A4) format paperback style.

To the reader who has not had recent personal contact with multiple choice format examinations this book reawakens distant memories of impossible choices, capricious answers and the difficulty of double negatives. There will be endless discussion about the veracity of the answers but this book is educational, fun and highly recommended at its price for all trainees and indeed for those who believe that education ends at retirement.

P. J. MAHAFFEY

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