

The development of appliances to train palatal movement has recently stimulated considerable interest. The Palatal Training Appliance (P.T.A.) developed by Selley is reported to produce tactile feedback or velar movements, stimulate sensory neurological development and encourage dorsal tongue relaxation. The appliance can be modified to provide a "Visual Speech Aid" and in discussing the therapeutic use of the P.T.A., Curle reports the advantages over conventional speech therapy, if used in intensive programmes. Intensive speech therapy programmes are also advocated by Huskie in Glasgow and Albery and Chapman in Bristol. The factor of teamwork is also of obvious significance in their encouraging results.

Margaret Edwards reviews opinions on auditory dysfunction and speech problems and, whilst emphasising the need for further research, points out that opinion seems to indicate the importance of auditory feedback for prosodic features of speech and oro-sensory feedback for articulation.

The final paper, by Parker and Kelham, discusses the relationship between orthodontic and speech phenomena, through the presentation of three case studies. Their suggestion of joint clinical teaching is perhaps an important message of this publication. The increased awareness of the role of different disciplines arising from such training, should lead to better use of our colleagues and a knowledge of the constraints of their disciplines.

These papers are an exciting example of the results of co-operation and teamwork in a variety of settings.

CAROL MILLER

SURGERY OF THE VEINS OF THE LEGS AND PELVIS. Edited by ROBERT MAY. Pp. 214, with 256 illustrations. (W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia/London/Toronto, 1979.) Price £21.

The editor (and author of a large proportion) of this book is Dr Robert May of Innsbruck and there are contributions by 12 other authors. It is primarily concerned with the large veins of the leg and pelvis and is presumably aimed at general and vascular surgeons for whom, no doubt, it would be very useful.

Of some interest to the plastic surgeon are chapters on venous anatomy, with details of variations and anomalies (relevant for those involved in free flap surgery to the leg), and on experimental venous surgery (for which there are 8 pages of references). There is a brief account of micro-venous surgery, for which the most recent reference given is 1971. The chapter on lymphoedema, by Cockett, is short but authoritative. Although describing his own experience, no mention is made of the work of O'Brien and others in the development of lymphatico-venous anastomoses using the microscope. The book shows the impoverishment which results from lack of cross-fertilisation between specialities.

It is beautifully produced on glossy paper with many illustrations (mainly radiographs and diagrams) of very high quality. The translation is precise and sometimes rather quaint. It was nice to read that the vascular sheath of the pelvic vessels is "artfully intertwined". Some of the "science" is equally quaint. It was fascinating to be told, for example, that the scar following ligation of perforating veins is "considerably improved if baths are prohibited for 6 weeks".

Only a few pages of the book are likely to be of real benefit to plastic surgeons and, at £21 for the book, these pages are probably too expensive for the plastic surgical library.

B. C. SOMMERLAD

CANCER OF THE BREAST. 2nd Edition. By W. L. DONEGAN and J. S. SPRATT. Pp: xiv + 701. Numerous illustrations. (W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1979.) Price £17.00.

With books on breast cancer published almost as frequently as magazines devoted to less pathological aspects of the organ, it is not easy to decide whether a further book adds to the library already extant. Hence, this newest one must be considered against those books currently available.

For the surgeon who wants an overall account of breast disease, Haagensen's text book remains pre-eminent and still in a class of its own, not only because of comprehensiveness but because of the distillation within it of a lifetime's personal experience. It lacks only the most recent developments. From a more restricted viewpoint, the recent book, "Problems in the Pathology of Breast Disease" by Azzopardi seems destined to become a similar classic since it discusses pathological processes most lucidly and sets them in the context of the clinical disease. In contrast, most recent books on breast cancer (usually in the form of review series) seem superficial, repetitious and ephemeral—and they are. They tend to catalogue all recent publications, including the most unscientific and fatuous, but lack balance and fail to subject the reviewed papers to scientific appraisal or set them in perspective against personal experience.

Hence, it is a great pleasure to find one which can be recommended strongly and in fact complements the two books detailed above, to provide a comprehensive coverage of breast cancer at least until 1977, which seems to be the cut off point for references. It gives an excellent summary of almost every aspect set against the background of the study of 2,600 case histories at the Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital. (One says almost every aspect, because the one chapter which is decidedly weak is that on reconstruction of the breast). The style of presentation is somewhat intense, so that it is better regarded as a reference book than one to read through to learn about breast cancer. But as a reference book, it is excellent since the authors seem to have the knack of including those problems which are too rare to find their way into standard textbooks, yet common enough to be met occasionally in clinical practice.

Epidemiology diagnosis and screening are fairly standard comprehensive chapters. Mammography is covered very well and the quality of reproduction of mammograms is exceptionally good. A chapter on pathology of breast cancer is brief but clear, with a modern logical classification which includes the rarer forms of tumours within the breast.

The chapter on surgery describes the technique of the different operations in considerable detail and endocrine therapy and chemotherapy are well covered. Less common aspects (e.g. tumour growth rate, cancer in pregnancy, pathogenesis of lymphoedema) are also covered particularly well. Chapters on psychological care and nursing (including that of radiotherapy) are interesting and helpful but the last one on statistical methods will probably leave practising surgeons cold.

Donegan and Spratt is highly recommended and at £17.00 is good value for money—perhaps on a pages/pound ratio even as good value as Haagensen.

L. E. HUGHES

BIOMATERIALS. Edited by G. W. HASTINGS and S. D. BRUCK. Quarterly. Published by IPC Science and Technology Press Ltd., Guildford, Surrey. Annual subscription £45.

This new international quarterly journal is intended to help dissemination of knowledge of the properties, potential hazards and clinical application of the various biomaterials used in medical and surgical research and clinical practice.

A glance at the titles of some of the papers in this first issue (January, 1980) will give some idea of the projected scope of the Journal:

An in-vitro study of mechanical fatigue in glutaraldehyde treated porcine aortic valve tissue.

Fatigue test machine for denture base polymers.

Controlled release of multi-component cytotoxic agents from radiation polymerized composites.

Problems of encapsulation of total joint replacements.

Carbon fibre reinforced epoxy as a high strength, low modulus material for internal fixation plates.

As one would expect, some of the papers are highly technical, but others are of immediate clinical importance. This first volume is an impressive publication and we wish it well. Its cost may put it beyond the library budget of most plastic surgery units, but it is a journal to be noted and consulted by all those working with new synthetic or naturally-occurring biomaterials.

MICHAEL N. TEMPEST

ESSENTIALS OF PLASTIC SURGERY. By WILLIAM M. COCKE, JR., RICHARD H. MCSHANE and JOHN S. SILVERTON. Pp. ix+211 with 140 illustrations. (Little, Brown and Company, Boston) 1979. \$12.50.

This volume is the joint effort of three authors, two working in California and the third in New York. The book is beautifully printed and its superb lay-out is a credit to the Publishers. Its aim, as stated in the preface is . . . "to present basic information about plastic surgery in a straightforward way. It is concise but informative. It does not overwhelm nor is it, we hope, too brief an overview. We would like the student to be able to pick up the text, read it in a few days and feel that he or she has a grasp of the specialty".

Quite so: but it would probably be wiser to read "glimpse" instead of the word "grasp". The book really deals with the scope rather than the essentials of the specialty. The chapters are well designed, the subject matter is up to date and the style of writing is refreshingly free and easy. But there is a tendency to use brackets to enclose statements that are sentences in their own right, the word débridement is misused every time it appears and there are some strange misprints that should have been picked up: "elastimers", "filtral column", "hypertelism" and "Camiesburn".

At the end of the volume there is a list of "Selected Readings" for those who wish to develop and deepen their knowledge of plastic surgery. The choice of reading material is intriguing, particularly the omission of the two books which are regarded as essential reading for all plastic surgery trainees on both sides of the Atlantic. In their introduction, the authors of this book treat us to a short dissertation on the etymological derivation of the word "plastic" and refer us to the Greek πλαστικός and the Latin equivalent plasticus. Perhaps they might like to look up and ponder over another classical word beginning with pl- in their etymological dictionary: plagiarism or literary theft. This may have something to do with their reluctance to include Ian McGregor's book or Grabb and Smith in their list of 'Selected Readings'. As Editor of this Journal, I was surprised to see that two of their illustrations (10, 4B and C) were published in this Journal in January, 1978 (Vol. 31, p. 60 and 61). No acknowledgement is made of this in the book, and no permission was sought from our Editorial Office or the Publishers.

If a second edition of this volume is contemplated, may we hope that the courtesies of copyright will be observed and that due credit will be given to the work of others?

MICHAEL N. TEMPEST