

Diseases of the Salivary Glands. By G. Seifert, A. Miehke, J. Haubrich and R. Chilla. Translated from German by P. M. Stell. Pp. xii + 393, with 630 illustrations and 39 tables. (Stuttgart, New York: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1986). Price DM298. ISBN 3 13 689101 5.

This is a genuine "state of the art" publication on diseases of the salivary glands, written in German and superbly translated into English by multilinguist Philip Stell, of Liverpool University. Thus, the reader does not suffer from the uncomfortable feeling often experienced when reading translated material. The senior author is a Professor of Pathology with a mammoth experience in salivary diseases, as shown by his extensive research and publications on the subject. His co-authors are three Professors of Ear, Nose and Throat surgery from other establishments in Germany.

As expected from a comprehensive work, all conditions affecting the salivary glands are dealt with in detail, including rarer conditions. The reader will find the chapters on sialadenosis and sialadenitis particularly enlightening. Those more academically minded will derive very useful information from the chapter on the histology of salivary glands, which includes some recent work by the senior author on immunocytochemistry. Benign and malignant tumours and their management, followed by well illustrated operative procedures, take up the second half of the book. For the sake of completeness an excellent chapter on facial palsy has been included.

Clinicians may feel there is a slight bias towards histopathology at the expense of clinical diagnosis, although limited clinical information is included in individual chapters. This book would have benefited greatly from a purely clinical chapter on the diagnosis of parotid swellings, often a difficult problem. The illustrations, some in colour, are excellent but, sadly, those in the chapter on anatomy are inadequate.

This book will be for many years one of the main references on diseases of the salivary glands. It should have a prominent place in all medical libraries and should be meticulously read by those involved in the management of salivary diseases.

M. N. SAAD

Oculoplastic Surgery. 2nd Edition. By Clinton D. McCord and Myron Tanenbaum. Pp. x + 502 with 285 figures. (New York: Raven Press, 1986). Price \$80.

The first edition, edited by McCord only, appeared in 1981 and was reviewed briefly in the *British Journal of Plastic Surgery* (1982, 35, 540). As I did not read the first edition, the book is new to me.

The seventeen contributors are mainly ophthalmic surgeons and the book is written for ophthalmic surgeons. Many of the eighteen chapters analyse clinical problems often seen by plastic surgeons in this country, and operations to correct them are described; most operative detail is given in excellent line drawings. There is a chapter on acute orbital trauma, an interesting chapter on Graves' ophthalmopathy and another on essential blepharospasm. The chapter on the evaluation and management of the ptosis patient is excellent. In a book from America it is not surprising to find a chapter devoted to blepharoplasty, cosmetic and functional.

On the negative side are Chapter 1 on skin and tissue

techniques (40 pages) and Chapter 9 on eyelid tumours (27 pages). The general outline of reconstructive techniques is, of necessity, inadequate to prepare an inexperienced surgeon for the demands of lid reconstruction and orbital surgery after tumour excision, while for the trained plastic surgeon there is room for criticism, for example the suturing shown in some of the operative photographic sequences is particularly bad. Full and partial thickness free skin grafts are advocated but only the electric dermatome is described (when, so often, small pieces of skin only are required). Skin cancers involving the lids demand a greater understanding of their pathology than is given. Moh's technique is outlined briefly, along with a poor reconstruction using "multiple full thickness skin grafts". In the chapter on evisceration, enucleation and exenteration (19 pages) the recommended lining for the orbit is the free partial thickness skin graft—many of us would settle for a quick healing flap. The anatomy chapter (33 pages) is good for revision, with nice line drawings, but its place in a surgical textbook can be questioned.

I agree with John Bennett who wrote that "this is a book which will interest trainees and specialists interested in the fascinating problems of oculoplastic surgery. It can be recommended." It is not a book from which the trainee plastic or trainee ophthalmic surgeon could learn unaided how to perform plastic surgical operations around the orbit.

A. F. WALLACE

Practical Guide to Free Tissue Transfer. By M. H. C. Webster and D. S. Soutar. Pp. ix + 125 with 104 line drawings. (London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington: Butterworths, 1986). Price £22.50. ISBN 0409 00243 X.

Surgical manuals share similarities with cookbooks. Some, like the *Larousse Gastronomique* (or Rob & Smith's *Operative Surgery*) set things out in such exhaustive detail that they have certainly earned their expensive, and weighty, place on every reference library shelf. This, however, is a "cookbook" of a different nature. With only 125 pages and even in hard cover, this slim volume would fit unobtrusively into the slimmest briefcase, and at £22.50 it is surprisingly affordable for a medical textbook.

The two Canniesburn authors draw on a wealth of personal experience in reconstructive surgery. In twenty chapters they describe twenty-five separate free flaps and their variants. Each chapter follows a standard form, reviewing the vascular basis, the technique of raising the flap, the donor defect and the advantages and disadvantages of the individual transfer. Every chapter, except for that on the pectoralis minor flap, is supported by references to published work.

Many of the line drawings are in two colours. The clear, uniform style of illustration and the use of red to highlight the vessels are particularly helpful. There are in fact more than 104 illustrations because many of the figures are composites of several drawings.

There is blank space on every page. This could be used by each owner to personalise the book, by adding drawings, new references and personal notes. These would be helpful because the book does not pretend to be a complete record of every tissue transfer that has been described. Many transfers are alluded to, rather than having specific headings devoted to them. For example, Chapter 20 on dorsalis pedis flaps shows illustrations of second toe and great toe "wraparound" transfers, and the text also mentions the first web sensory flap, but specific detail on

these flaps (and their further variations) would need to be gleaned from a careful reading of the general section headed "Raising the Flap" or from further references.

No matter: this is an excellent work which covers the whole free flap spectrum. It offers honest guidance on the choice of flap, practical help with the operative procedure and enough inspiration to the microsurgically-aware reader to seek out and update details from current literature. It should find a place in every reconstructive surgeon's personal collection and I predict that (like that other practical guide of Mrs Beeton's) it will go on from strength to strength.

C. T. K. KHOO

Skin Surgery. Edited by E. Epstein and E. Epstein Jr. Sixth edition. Pp. xv+676, illustrated. (Philadelphia, London, Toronto, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Sydney, Tokyo, Hong Kong: W. B. Saunders Co., 1987). Price £85.

To write this book the two editors (dermatologists) have used 58 contributors; of these only a handful are plastic surgeons. The text is now half the two volume length it had reached when the fifth edition was reviewed in this Journal in 1983, and the publishers have changed. With 55 chapters in 676 pages, the length of chapters varies from one to eighty-two pages, and this variation in length is matched by an inequality in the value and relevance of the contributions. For a sixth edition it is still an immature publication. It has lacked firm editorial control and there is much repetition, with surgical techniques (including clinical illustrations of facial crease lines) discussed by a plastic surgeon in Chapter 6 (12 pages), and also by a dermatologist in Chapter 10 (40 pages). References appear variously in either numerical or alphabetical order and many are incorrect, *i.e.* reference 57 p. 35 should be dated 1976, and on p. 151 adjacent references 20 and 21 should give Arons consistent initials and the date for reference 21 should be 1966; reference 43 (p. 151) and reference 7 (p. 558) incorrectly spell Elder and Clark as Elden and Clear. These are random reference checks and it seems likely that other errors exist. Many chapters deal with the chosen subjects very superficially and this is well illustrated in Chapter 38 on "Eyelid skin surgery" which in just over 9 pages "covers" congenital, degenerative and neoplastic conditions.

It seems clear from a study of this book that it is not aimed at plastic surgeons (or dermatologists, dare I say) in the United Kingdom. It does appear to have been written for that peculiar breed of "dermatologic surgeons" in North America—although perhaps they exist elsewhere.

With 128/676 pages (almost 20% of the whole book), 330 illustrations and 201 references devoted to the management of the balding scalp, and 8 pages and 10 references given to cutaneous burn injury, the book may well represent a balanced view of dermatologic surgery practice in the United States. In the editorial footnote to the chapter on tissue expansion is written "the most important new chapter in this book"; this chapter is less than 6 pages long with 7 references which are not all accurate.

In their endeavour to appear to cover the whole field the editors have included sections on liposuction, oral surgery and surgery of the male and female genitalia.

After reading this volume, my overwhelming concern is that the inexperienced practitioner will embark on one of the many procedures mentioned without a balanced view of the technical

problems and complications involved. I do not consider the book good value for money, and it is very likely to mislead a trainee whatever his/her speciality.

R. W. GRIFFITHS

The Interphalangeal Joints. *The Hand and Upper Limb*, Volume 1. Edited by William H. Bowers. Pp. 274 with 298 figures and tables. (Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1987). Price £50. ISBN 443 032 165.

This is the first volume to appear in the series "The Hand and Upper Limb" currently in preparation by Churchill Livingstone. The series has got off to a superb start. Dr Bowers has assembled contributions from distinguished writers on both sides of the Atlantic, and the result is a detailed and authoritative account of the interphalangeal joints in their normal state, and affected by disease and injury.

This confined field may seem too small to justify an entire book, but the result of so detailed an approach is an extremely valuable addition to the literature of hand surgery. The book is so well written and edited that it can be read from cover to cover with enjoyment and without any feeling of repetition or unnecessary detail, and from another point of view it provides an important reference source, well indexed and furnished with full references.

There are no weak contributions to single out for criticism. The first two chapters by the editor and Dr Littler respectively are a delight to read, and the third chapter by Dr Paul Brand and co-authors on biomechanics is full of engineering detail which is of importance but somewhat indigestible if the reader lacks an engineering background.

The next section of the book is devoted to repair and reconstruction following injury, including capsular injuries, fractures and fracture-dislocations, and injuries to the extensor surface and the tendons related to the IP joints. The third section on arthritis and arthrosis deals in detail with rheumatoid and related conditions, degenerative arthritis and two excellent chapters on arthrodesis and arthroplasty. The only small area of duplication is in dual coverage of "mucous cysts" in this section and the chapter on developmental conditions, which is more detailed.

Professor Buck-Gramcko's chapter on congenital conditions affecting the IP joints is masterly and very useful, and the book ends with three very enjoyable and most important chapters on rehabilitation—surgeons can learn a great deal from this section written by therapists.

If the succeeding volumes live up to the standard set by this one, the series has great promise, though this book stands on its own and will be enjoyed and frequently turned to by the growing body of surgeons with a major interest in the hand. Highly recommended.

D. M. EVANS

The Arterial Anatomy of Skin Flaps. By George C. Cormack and B. George Lamberty. 1st Edition. Pp. 455, illustrated. (Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1986). Price £125. ISBN 443 03214 9.

Over the past ten years the number of books on plastic surgery has increased at an alarming rate especially when one considers