

what was available only a relatively short time ago. Sadly not all of these have been of the highest quality and have often repeated already well-documented material, so much so that one may have been forgiven for asking why they were necessary. It is a great pleasure, therefore, to welcome a new book by British authors which is both stimulating and fills a gap in the plastic surgery literature. The differing backgrounds of the authors are complementary and the strong anatomical basis of the book is carefully balanced with ample practical surgical material. Although much of its content records and summarises what is known about the blood supply of the skin and the flaps we use, this information, which is supplemented and strengthened by much of the authors' own fascinating work, is presented in such a well organised fashion that it makes up a really excellent and worthwhile book. Most of the material has been drawn from relatively recent work, but the authors are careful to point out that a good deal was recorded years ago and rediscovered only recently when the need to find new flaps was stimulated by modern plastic surgical techniques.

The sequence of the book is well conceived and presented. A brief introductory chapter provides a fascinating summary of the historical phases of the development of skin flaps, recalling the names of past and present innovators. The authors' concept of anatomical, dynamic and potential territories of skin flaps is introduced in this section and this, combined with other definitions, e.g. axially and angiotomes, helps clarify the following text. The recent introduction of the concept of the angiosome (Taylor and Palmer, 1987), which postdates this work, now adds a further dimension.

The next section summarises the anatomy and physiology of the microcirculation, debates the mechanisms of the delay phenomenon and reviews the controversial subject of drug use in the manipulation and salvage of skin flaps. In the light of the numerous safe flaps which are described in subsequent chapters one cannot help conclude that these techniques are mainly a thing of the past.

Then follows the real meat of the book. The basic principles involved in direct cutaneous, musculocutaneous and fasciocutaneous systems are each covered thoroughly in separate chapters and there follows a detailed section on the blood supply of the skin by regions. The book concludes with a practical seventh chapter on the vascular territories and clinical applications of the planning of the flaps. These important sections will prove invaluable to the practising surgeon. No longer will it be necessary to refer to various anatomical texts, each with differing nomenclatures or search for articles on flap design when faced with a problematical skin defect, for the operator will find most of his needs satisfied in these pages. The one area that one might criticise is the section on the hand which is not up to the high standard set in the rest of the book.

Comprehensive references are listed after each section and summarised in two indices (subject and principal author index), while two helpful appendices cover terminology and the technical data used in the authors' anatomical studies.

The book is well written and understandable. There are few spelling mistakes but these can be irritating, especially when they are inconsistent and involve surgeons' names. The ample illustrations are generally excellent and enhance the text but a few are so small that they need magnification to be read with comfort. This is a shame since the diagrams which illustrate the authors' own important work on the fasciocutaneous systems are particularly at fault. Some perfectionists will be irritated by the format of the book. Each page consists of two columns of text and these look very untidy in the unjustified form. There

may also be objections to paying for so much blank paper. The whiteness of one page is only blemished by a single reference in small print! These are small points but it is a pity that the publishers have let the authors down a little by not devoting as much attention to the layout of the text as the writers have obviously done in the anatomical observations, recordings and demonstrations of the clinical possibilities which they explain so expertly. This criticism aside, there is no doubt about the debt we owe to the authors and the obvious effort put into this book, which is surely destined to become a classic and a must for all practising or training in plastic surgery.

P. J. SYKES

Reference

Taylor, G. I. and Palmer, J. H. (1987). The vascular territories (angiosomes) of the body: experimental study and clinical applications. *British Journal of Plastic Surgery*, **40**, 113.

The Paralysed Hand. Edited by Douglas W. Lamb. Pp. 251 with 180 figures and tables. (Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1986). Price £42. ISBN 0443 03298 X.

This is a beautifully produced book dealing comprehensively with a difficult subject, with contributions from an international panel mainly from the United States of America but also from the United Kingdom and Hong Kong. The contributors have been chosen because of their special interests and experience and this shows in the high quality of the finished work.

The book is in five sections:

- 1 Aetiology and Investigation.
- 2 Common Causes of the Paralysed Hand.
- 3 Biomechanics of Tendon Transfer.
- 4 Management of Pain.
- 5 Role of the Therapist.

The introduction in the first chapter is quite detailed but perhaps not aimed at the same level as the rest of the book, though being rather elementary is no bad thing. The categorisation of causes of paralysis of the hand into upper and lower motor neurone disorders is confusing when in upper motor neurone disorders are included such things as cerebellar disease and hysterical dysfunction of the extremity.

In the chapter on clinical examination it is emphasised correctly that the hand is only part of the patient, but the accuracy of some of the statements made must be questioned. At one point the author talks of "flexing the humerus" and also describes the nerve supply of the extensor carpi radialis brevis as the main trunk of the radial nerve, and there is a lack of detail in the description of the nerve supply to the triceps which can be very important clinically. In the same chapter the description of the testing of brachio-radialis is rather inadequate.

In the chapter entitled "The Anatomy of Peripheral Nerves in the Upper Limb" there are again some inaccuracies, Horner's syndrome being inadequately described; the relations of the cords of the brachial plexus to the axillary artery are incorrectly stated and there is an error in the statement that the nerve to subclavius contains fibres from the fifth and sixth cervical roots. The description of the sensory nerve supply to the digits is both inadequate and inaccurate. There is no mention of any afferent fibres in the posterior interosseous nerve and it is perhaps

particularly important to understand that this nerve does supply the carpal joints and may in fact communicate with other peripheral nerves to appreciate some of the problems of the pain in the wrist and hand.

There is a short, succinct chapter on the recovery of nerve function after replantation and transplant although this does not perhaps fit into the general theme of the book. However, an intriguing statement is made that the 2 point discrimination in the skin of the toe may be improved after transfer to a digit. Although few surgeons in the western world see patients suffering from leprosy, the chapter on the hand in leprosy is a most valuable contribution not only describing details of this disease but also outlining the most important principles involved in the treatment of the hand affected by leprosy. This is followed by a section dealing with traumatic brachial plexus injuries, which includes a very good historical survey putting the problem into correct perspective, and it is summed up by an outline of the unsolved problems and indicating that much progress is yet to be made.

There is an excellent account of the upper limb and hand in traumatic tetraplegia with an important and informative contribution from the author's own experience. Highlighted are the vital role played by the therapist and careful postoperative management.

Although the third section of the book is the shortest it does contain three of the most important topics in the management of patients with paralysed hands. The chapter on the biomechanics of tendon transfer is extremely valuable to any surgeon intending to undertake this type of operation. It emphasises choosing the correct type of muscle for transfer with its correct excursion and the importance played by loss of compliance. Pain is a very difficult problem in a paralysed hand. Difficulty is experienced in its understanding by both the surgeon and the patient. The neurophysiology of pain is clearly outlined though perhaps the ideas put forward as to the control of afferent pain impulses stray into theory rather than fact. There is a very helpful discussion about reflex sympathetic dystrophy.

The book ends with a consideration of the role of the therapist in rehabilitation of the paralysed hand. Although this is a good chapter, it would have been improved by an indication of the increasing involvement of the therapist in the management of the patient with a paralysed hand immediately before and after an operation, for example, a tendon transfer and the subsequent rehabilitation. The question of sensory re-education is discussed but there is little mention of motor re-education.

The Paralysed Hand deals with one aspect of hand surgery and makes a most important contribution to our understanding of the treatment of a patient with this condition. There are certain inaccuracies but it brings together the thoughts of established clinicians whose ideas are based on personal experience. Many important principles are outlined and it is certainly to be recommended for any surgeon undertaking the care of patients with a paralysed hand and associated problems.

H. G. BROWN

Rhinoplasty: Emphasizing the External Approach. By Jack R. Anderson and W. Russell Ries. Pp. x + 177 with 270 illustrations. (Stuttgart, New York: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1986). Price DM 98. ISBN 313 691501 1 (TMP)

This third volume, commissioned by the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery represents the lifetime working experience of Dr Anderson, Professor of Otolaryngology in New Orleans.

Dr Anderson and his co-author have carried out over 7000 rhinoplasties over the last 34 years. Being such a personal book it is necessarily dogmatic but gives the reader reassurance that the methods described do work, at least in the hands of the authors. In passing, they make helpful comments on techniques they have not found to be useful.

After short, very readable opening chapters on the desirable image of the cosmetic surgeon, medico-legal aspects, psychology and patient selection (including a six page self-administered history questionnaire), the reader is taken through preoperative consultation and planning via surgical technique to postoperative management in concise, clear chapters with helpful line drawings.

The special feature of their technique (the external approach) referred to in the title will be novel to most British readers. In essence, it is a wider exposure of the nasal skeleton by means of a modified "flying bird incision", i.e. marginal incisions in the nostril joined to a transcolumella cut. The authors use this extended exposure in over half of their cases. If you have the courage to use this approach, it must lead to easier and more accurate surgery to the nasal skeleton. With 7000 cases behind him in a litigation-conscious country like America, I am tempted to try this approach when access is limited.

The book has good chapters on local anaesthetic techniques, nasal tip surgery, secondary rhinoplasty and septal surgery. Interestingly, Dr Anderson uses some form of septal surgery in 95% of his rhinoplasties.

What I found particularly helpful was the 15 cases discussed in the last 44 pages of the book. There are pre- and postoperative photographs, detailed comments of the preoperative plan and analysis of the postoperative results.

At DM 98 the volume is reasonably priced. It should be in all plastic surgery libraries and I suspect many senior registrars and consultants would be wise to buy a personal copy.

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