

surgery in a better way, such as she subsequently describes. Such is the way new techniques and modifications are continuously evolving and how much of this book has come to be produced.

The editor must be complimented on the magnificent way in which he has controlled the verbosity of most of the contributors. Only the essential facts required to describe techniques have been permitted, and clarity has been achieved with copious diagrams. Where different surgeons favour different techniques for achieving similar goals both techniques are included, such as mucous membrane grafting and vein grafting around Jones tubes for maintaining a conduit, and ear cartilage and sclera for preventing entropion after Cutler-Beard reconstructions. Rarely is anything included which some might feel is positively contraindicated, but the removal of an ellipse of skin for the correction of entropion and the excision of tarsus and posterior lamella of an eyelid to correct ptosis in patients with conjunctival scarring, which makes eversion of an eyelid difficult, are both techniques which must be treated with extreme caution by surgeons not very well versed in eyelid surgical techniques.

For anybody practising ophthalmic plastic surgery in either a major or minor way this book has plenty of surgical 'pearls' to offer, and I have seldom enjoyed reading a book more. It is not, however, and is not intended to be, a comprehensive textbook, and no attempt is made to describe a logical series of operations to cover the spectrum of ophthalmic plastic surgery, nor does the editor comment on or criticise the individual contributions. If the reader has a basic knowledge of ophthalmic plastic surgery, however, he will find this book very enjoyable, instructive, easy to assimilate, and in short warmly to be recommended.

RICHARD COLLIN

**Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.** By MARTIN HATT. Pp. 166. DM 128.00. Georg Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart. 1986.

This is an excellent short textbook of ophthalmic plastic surgery encompassing surgery of the eyelids, lacrimal apparatus, and orbit. The author states in the preface that he has selected procedures which are logical based on the aetiological pathophysiology and which have proved their value in a large number of cases. He also states that he does not attempt an all encompassing review of ophthalmic and surgical literature, and yet I have seldom read a textbook on this subject which is more extensively referenced. Although the author gives a clear opinion of his choice of operation, the reader is given every opportunity to study alternative thoughts and ideas by the very extensive, accurate, and current references which are referred to throughout the text and make this a work of considerable scholarship despite the book's deceptively small size. It certainly gives the reader an excellent base from which both to practise and to search for new treatment methods, which the author states is one of his hopes. Professor Blodi points out in the foreword that the primary function of the adnexa is the protection of the eyeball and the preservation of vision and that only the ophthalmologist is trained to keep these principles in mind. I agree wholeheartedly with this, and, contrary to the author's statement that 'only experts in the

field of ophthalmic plastic surgery should be involved in these procedures', I feel that this book constitutes a very sound base for the general ophthalmologist to practise and improve his surgery.

There are chapters on surgical anatomy, surgical principles, anaesthesia, entropion, ectropion, ptosis, lacrimal drainage, the conjunctiva, excision of lid tumours, eyelid reconstruction, the orbit, cosmetic lid surgery, and trauma. All are extensively illustrated with excellent diagrams and clinical photographs showing pre- and postoperative patients, but there are no photographs of the operations themselves. The author very much believes in the reconstruction of three eyelid layers, the skin, middle layer of orbicularis muscle, and the deep layer of tarsoconjunctiva. There are particularly good sections on haemostasis, the differences between local anaesthetics, lacrimal surgery including canalicular repair, the pathological examination of excised lid tumours, and socket reconstruction, in which the author includes his own very practical techniques for reconstructing the conjunctival fornices with a MIRA silicone hemisphere. He holds this in situ with tarsorrhaphies rather than the more usual techniques of fixation to periosteum or bone. The section on upper lid entropion is sketchy, reflecting probably the lack of Swiss patients with this problem. Certain procedures are omitted, such as the posterior approach to ptosis correction and the repair of medial canthal tendon injuries, and other procedures are not covered as fully as might be anticipated. There is a lack of didactic guidelines for the inexperienced on how much levator muscle to resect in ptosis surgery or how much to recess the lid retractors in the correction of lid retraction, though the techniques themselves are adequately described. The indications for specific operations such as are involved in eyelid reconstruction are described but not very precisely for the novice. Techniques of orbitotomies are described briefly, but it is difficult to get much benefit from a short section on orbital surgery without embarking on a much larger discussion of the diagnosis and management of orbital disease, and clearly this is contraindicated in a book of this size.

In summary, this is an excellent short textbook of ophthalmic plastic surgery which has been very well researched. There is enough detail, aided by the excellent diagrams, for anyone to perform competently a wide range of surgical procedures, and the reader is given a very good overview of the whole subject from which to progress if he so wishes.

J R O COLLIN

**Contemporary Issues in Fetal and Neonatal Medicine. 2. Retinopathy of Prematurity.** Eds. WILLIAM A SILVERMAN AND JOHN T FLYNN. Pp. 303. £32.50. Blackwell: Oxford. 1985.

The editors state in the preface of this book that it is not intended to be a comprehensive text on retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) but might more appropriately be subtitled 'current controversies'. There are 12 chapters including: the new International Classification, pathology, animal models, perinatal retinal vascular physiology, pathogenesis, vitamin E, surgical treatment, and the sequelae of ROP. There are also sections on the monitoring of oxygen



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