Book reviews


This excellent monograph in French by an ophthalmic surgeon and a maxillo-facial surgeon is based on their extensive collaborative experience in the treatment of facial injuries at Nancy, and represents a most valuable addition to the literature dealing with orbital injuries. As well as informative clinical photographs and radiographs there is a comprehensive bibliography of almost 400 references.

The work is divided into four parts. The first deals with the structural and functional aspects of binocular vision, radiological appearances, and electromyography. The second deals with the clinical and radiological manifestations of all types of fracture of the face and skull involving the orbit, the third with the pathogenesis of these injuries and their complications involving the eye, lids, lacrimal apparatus, and extra-ocular muscles, and the last with the treatment of these conditions in detail.

Throughout the work the chief emphasis is laid on the restoration of function and appearance to as near normal as possible, with particular reference to binocular single vision. The importance of the muscle duction test in the diagnosis of the incarceration of soft tissue is emphasized and the scope of electromyography is discussed.

This book can be highly recommended and should certainly be perused by those concerned in the management of orbital injuries, the incidence of which seems to be ever increasing.


The author of this useful monograph on blow-out fractures of the orbit finds that these conditions are often inadequately treated and sometimes remain undiagnosed, usually because of unsatisfactory radiological examination. A concise account of the pathogenesis and clinical symptoms and signs of blow-out fractures serves as an introduction to the main part of the work, which deals in considerable detail with the radiological diagnosis of this type of injury. The text is illustrated with a large number of radiographs demonstrating the advantages and limitations of particular radiographic projections including those of Caldwell and Waters and the straight lateral view, and special views such as the 30° postero-anterior and the 20°/35° oblique projection for the examination of the floor and medial wall of the orbit.

A detailed description is given of the technique, limitations, and hazards of positive contrast orbitography, whereby a radio-opaque contrast medium is injected along the orbital floor outside the muscle cone in order to provide direct visual evidence of a fracture. This procedure is claimed to be particularly useful for the demonstration of minimal tissue prolapse into the antrum and for linear cracks with incarceration of soft tissue. The recently developed method of hypocycloid or polytomography, which in some centres is replacing the older techniques of linear tomography, is also described.

The final chapter consists of a short account by Morton Goldberg of the present policy in respect of the surgical management of blow-out fractures at the Wilmer Institute.

The quality of the radiographs is, in general, good, but it should be noted that a few have been printed the wrong way round in relation to the accompanying details (as has been noted in the text).