BOOK REVIEW

Title: CURRENT CONCEPTS IN HAND SURGERY  
Editor: John A. Boswick, Jr., Professor of Surgery, Chief, Hand Surgery Service, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, Colorado  
Publisher: Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia  
Price: $41.25 Hard back  
287 pages plus index and numerous illustrations and tables

Perhaps because this book was birthed at the Rocky Mountain International Seminar on Hand Surgery in July 1982, its chapters reflect the effects of mountain air — bracing and vigorous in the main but suffering from high altitude sickness in others; the scientific nadir being the last chapter on Painful Hand Syndrome treated by Acupuncture, which is almost totally anecdotal and the references take no account of the excellent results obtained with the Guanethidine Bier manoeuvre. Perversely, the same author has written two excellent chapters on Tumours and Secondary Procedures after Replantation. The indications for replantation procedures are narrowing rapidly. The thumb is always worth replanting. Single fingers should not be reattached.

I was disappointed to see continued advocacy for split skin grafts in the chapter on finger tip injuries which do not expose bone, since this often results in a mental amputation of the affected digit because the sensation is always abnormal following such a procedure.

Nail bed injuries, frequently poorly managed, are satisfactorily dealt with and the treatment comprehensively described.

There is an excellent chapter on the difficult problem of the short metacarpal and its treatment.

There is a full cover of other aspects of hand surgery, including infections, burns, flexor tendons, and nerve and bone injuries, the crushed hand, rheumatoid disease and Dupuytren’s contracture.

M. Pillet from Paris has a chapter on his excellent cosmetic prosthesis.

The spectrum of hand surgery is covered.

This book will delight all those who have an interest in hand problems and their management, and the Editor, John Boswick, is to be congratulated on organising such an attractive Meeting, especially out of the skiing season, and recording it so well.

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