

BOOK REVIEWS

PLASTIC SURGERY OF THE FACE. By H. D. GILLIES. Oxford University Press. London. 1920. Cloth, Quarto, pp. 408.

In this book the author presents the results of his experience in dealing with war injuries of the face, as the surgeon in charge of the department for plastic surgery in the Queens Hospital, Sidcup, during the recent World War.

The abundance of material which forms the basis of this book is very great and the skill and industry with which the various problems involved in dealing with such injuries have been met, is most striking and commendable.

A series of eight hundred and forty-four illustrations make a clear, graphic record of the work done both as regards its various steps and methods and the results obtained. The whole constitutes a most valuable contribution to the medical literature of the war and to the history of surgery. All the possibilities of plastic work evidently have been utilized in the work here recorded, although it is evident that at Sidcup the use of bone transplants and of mechanical devices were resorted to less frequently than in some of the French clinics or in similar cases among our American surgeons.

The book constitutes a storehouse of clinical records which will always merit the careful study of every surgeon who undertakes to remedy by plastic work the deformities of the face, which are often so distressing to the subject and difficult of relief to the surgeon.

LEWIS S. PILCHER.

PLASTIC SURGERY—Its Principles and Practice. By JOHN STAIGE DAVIS. Philadelphia. P. Blakiston's Son & Co. Cloth, Octavo, pp. 770.

In this book the whole field of plastic surgery is covered. For many years the author has specialized in this work at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. The author is of opinion that the time has come for the creation of the new specialty of plastic surgery and advocates the appointment of a specially trained plastic surgeon on the staff of every large general hospital.

Notwithstanding, the greater prominence which the plastic surgery of the face has hitherto occupied, the author claims that plastic surgery of the trunk and extremities is equally important.

The frequent contributions to literature during the last few years by the author has prepared the way for this book, and it should be welcomed as a full and systematic presentation of the possibilities and methods of plastic surgery in all of its departments in all portions of the body. It will be seen that such subjects as exstrophy of the bladder, skin grafting

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of all kinds and the tissue transplantations come fully within the scope of this work.

The book is abundantly illustrated and is sure to find a welcome place in the library of every general surgeon.

LEWIS S. PILCHER.

GRAY'S ANATOMY—Descriptive and Applied. Twenty-first Edition, edited by ROBERT HOWDEN, M.A., M.B., D.Sc., Professor of Anatomy in University of Durham. Longmans, Green & Co. London and New York.

An anatomical text-book ought to be crammed full of illustrations each so clear and distinct as to speak for itself. Gray's Anatomy, always well illustrated—the first illustrations were drawn by Vandyke Carter—shows marked improvement in this respect in this latest edition. More than 80 new drawings made by Mr. Sydney Sewell have been added along with others taken from Poirier and Charpey's excellent work. Altogether there are 1215 illustrations in this new edition of which there are 568 colored. The slight coloring aids and accentuates the differentiation of the various structures and impresses their co-relation on the student's mind. The volume would have been still further enhanced in value had it included illustration of head sections, showing the relation of the brain to its external coverings and the best means of gaining access to the brain. For brain surgery such sections are necessary, and even for the student and practitioner desiring to follow localizing symptoms of cerebral lesions, such head sections would much more readily enable them to realize and understand the phenomena.

The omission of such head sections is the more remarkable as this volume gives excellent sections of the upper and lower limbs—showing the structures in a single plane, such as the surgeon would see after amputation, and are useful in many other ways. The editor has been vigilant in keeping abreast of present-day requirements, and has added to anatomical knowledge by bringing into relief points which hitherto were overlooked or considered of little practical importance, but upon which surgical advancements have necessitated accurate information, such as that of the position of the supra-meatal triangle in its relation to the mastoid antrum. The anatomical relations of inguinal and femoral herniæ ought to be improved.

Difference of opinion may certainly be held regarding the introduction of the Basle terminology. It is considered unfortunate to have changed a nomenclature when the editor himself confesses that neither the old nor the new phraseology is entirely satisfactory, and when the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland concluded that there was no reason for departing from the use of the old nomenclature. Confusion is very apt to ensue. The new terminology may, however, popularize the volume with the Americans who have generally adopted the Basle terminology.