

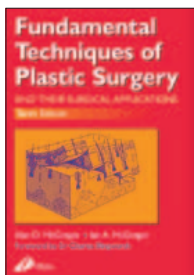
## **Fundamental Techniques of Plastic Surgery and their Surgical Applications (10th edn)**

Churchill Livingstone 2000

Price £51.00. Pp 221

ISBN 0443063729

*Fundamental Techniques of Plastic Surgery and their Surgical Applications* is an excellent textbook that is to be recommended to all plastic surgery and surgical trainees wishing to improve their surgical handicraft. First published in 1960 and currently in its 10th edition, this nicely written, fully illustrated book (220 illustrations within its 224 pages) provides the reader with a clear account of the funda-



mental principles of reconstructive surgery. The uniform approach adopted throughout each topic omits much of the confusion associated with larger more expensive multi-authored plastic surgery texts.

The first part of the book focuses on the principles of wound management, Z plasty, skin grafts and flaps and there is an overview of tissue expansion, liposuction and laser therapy techniques. In the second part of the book, these fundamental techniques are applied to the clinical management of hypertrophic and keloid scars, radiation injury, pressure sores, lower limb trauma, neoplasia and hand surgery.

*Tom Macleod, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth*

## **A Flickering Lamp: A History of the Sydenham Medical Club (1715-2000)**

David Hay

David Hay, Andover, Hampshire 2001

Pp 252

ISBN 1 85065 491 3

Clubs of all kinds were founded in London in the latter years of the 18th century; medical practitioners not to be outdone, launched The Monday Medical Club, which, although still extant, changed its name (in 1912) to commemorate 'The English Hippocrates' Thomas Sydenham (1624-89).

At its regular meetings (always centred around dinners) almost anything connected with medicine seems to have been discussed. This club originally had equal numbers (six of each) of physicians, surgeons and apothecaries; over the years, many of London's most distinguished physicians and surgeons have been elected to the membership.

This paperback book has been carefully and painstakingly researched from archival material scattered in several locations. Much of the text consists of potted biographies of the 300 or so individuals who have had the honour (one assumes) of being elected to this elite and exclusive club. There is thus a great deal about the history of medicine in London over the last 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> centuries. The appendices give details of the membership, office holders, and rules of the club; 54 figures (only moderately well reproduced) are placed after the index.

There is certainly a great deal here to be of absorbing interest to everyone with any sort of interest in the evolution of London's medical scene during two centuries and this 'labour of love' must be warmly recommended. One wonders, however, in these 'politically correct' times, when women and ethnic minorities will be numbered among this illustrious membership.

*GC Cook, The Wellcome Trust, London*

## **Mental Health Outcome Measures (2nd edn)**

Edited by Michelle Tansella, Graham Thornicroft

Gaskell 2001

Price £25.00. Pp 325

ISBN 1901242552

The push towards finding acceptable and replicable measures to monitor the rapid changes in delivery of mental health services are the main driving forces behind outcome measurement in psychiatry. This second edition of *Mental Health Outcome Measures*, appearing just 4 years after its predecessor, offers authoritative reviews exploring outcome domains ranging from patient-based outcome to service evaluation.

The book encompasses diverse areas of outcome evaluation including statistical methods for measuring outcome, scales of global functioning, evaluating the burden on carers, approaches to measuring quality of life, service-based needs assessments, clinical assessment in neuropsychiatry, outcome measures

for treating depression in primary care and exploring the costs of mental health care, as well as the benefits and limitations of randomized controlled trials.

The book is helpful for anyone in the field of psychiatric patient-based outcome measurement who needs an overview of the available research instruments. The book encompasses a range of outcome measures allowing researchers to make an informed choice about possible instruments. There remains a chasm, however, between the instruments available to researchers and those which provide rapid, replicable outcome measurements for clinical use.

With regard to scales suitable for routine clinical outcome measurement, there is little focus on Health of the Nation Outcome Scales while more attention is devoted to the Camberwell Assessment of Need. There is also scant attention to the minimal data set in psychiatry, the developing use of mental health information systems as potential repositories of outcome data or how diverse information technologies, e.g. optical mark readers, websites or wireless networks, might aid data collection.

This book is a timely and useful attempt to bring together influential contributions to the arena of outcome measurement in psychiatry and is highly recommended to general psychiatrists, management and those wishing to undertake research in this field.

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