

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Fundamentals of Cutaneous Surgery, Bennett RG : The CV Mosby Co, St Louis, 1988; pp 823, Price, \$ 94.50.**

The development of surgery has added tremendously to the advancement of dermatologic therapeutics. A skilled conduction of these procedures not only helps in establishing a correct diagnosis and treatment, but also assists in obtaining an excellent cosmetic result. Most of the surgical procedures are simple office procedures and can be carried-out routinely, some of them are complex and require sophisticated instruments. Not only an understanding of the basic anatomy and physiology of the skin and mechanism of wound healing is essential for any surgeon performing cutaneous surgery but also a knowledge of the principles and correct methodology of the procedure. Teaching within the academic dermatology has been such that these principles and procedures are poorly understood and inadequately taught. The present document is an effort towards better understanding of the fundamentals of cutaneous surgery. The text has been divided into 5 parts comprising of 28 chapters in all, namely, Part I, Background and basic science, (1) Cutaneous surgery : history and development, (2) Cutaneous structure, function and repair, (3) Anatomy for cutaneous surgery, (4) Microbiologic considerations in cutaneous surgery, Part II, Materials for cutaneous surgery, (5) Office surgical facility, (6) Anaesthesia, (7) Instruments and their care, (8) Materials for wound closure, (9) Dressings and miscellaneous surgical materials, Part III, Fundamentals of excisional surgery, (10) Basic excisional surgery, (11) Alternative suture techniques, (12) Complex closures, (13) Problems associated with cutaneous surgery, Part IV, Common procedures in cutaneous surgery,

(14) The skin biopsy, (15) Curettage, (16) Electro-surgery, (17) Collagen implantation, (18) Sclerotherapy for telangiectasias and superficial veins, (19) Ear piercing, Part V, Surgical management of selected cutaneous lesions, (20) Non-melanoma skin cancers, (21) Lesions derived from melanocytes or nevus cells, (22) Lesions of the surface epidermis, (23) Lesions of fibrous tissue, (24) Lesions of vascular tissue, (25) Lesions of neural and fat tissue, (26) Cystic lesions, (27) Lesions of epidermal appendages, (28) Foreign materials.

The text is thorough and amply indexed. Each chapter is concise and well written. The writing style is fairly uniform throughout the text and the clarity of writing and the thoroughness with which the subjects are discussed make the book a joy to read. The pages are filled with numerous black and white clinical photographs taken mostly from the author's own collection. The text has been simplified with the help of many small tables and diagrammatic presentations. The illustrations clearly depict the maneuvers in a comprehensible manner without extraneous details or labelling. The chapter on "Basic excisional surgery" highlights the excellent quality of these illustrations in depicting tissue movements and placements. The section on basic sciences including the chapters on the surgical anatomy and wound repair is well illustrated. In the section on common procedures in cutaneous surgery, chapters on curettage, collagen implantation and sclerotherapy are adequately covered but surprisingly hair transplantation and skin grafting are completely omitted as are the other procedures like dermabrasion, nail surgery, laser, cryosurgery and chemosurgery which are probably planned for the second volume of the book.