
It may not seem to the plastic surgeon that a book on amputations would be applicable in his or her practice. The authors have written a very readable and useful treatise on amputations. The book is filled with information that is usually given by the surgeon to the resident in training. This is not a book on how to do amputations; it does give a philosophy behind the surgery of amputations.

In the section on amputation through the hand, the following statement is made. "With the hugely increased deployment of microsurgery, almost any amputated part can be revascularized, but survival of the injured part should not be mistaken as useful function." The text gives clinical insights that will help the plastic surgeon in the decision to amputate or reconstruct.

Approximately 50 percent of the text discusses artificial limbs. The material on artificial limbs would not be of interest to plastic surgeons. It is useful information to have for discussing recommendations for amputation or reconstruction.

I would recommend this as a reference book for plastic surgeons beginning training. I do not believe the practicing plastic surgeon will find enough value to add it to his or her library.

Alfred I. Blue, M.D.


Handy Views is a small, user-friendly atlas of standard, as well as not-so-standard, radiographic views of the hand and wrist. This book has a definite place in the office of a plastic surgeon who operates on hands. The book is very easy to follow and, in a quick manner, guides the surgeon in choosing the optimal view for demonstrating the pathology that he or she seeks. One of the great advantages of this book is that it allows for communication to outside radiographic centers that might not be familiar with the radiographic views or the terminology that surgeons use to refer to those views. The appropriate page showing the view can be photocopied easily and sent with the prescription so that there is no question as to which view is needed.

Another advantage of the book is that it shows simple ways to ensure appropriate positioning of the patient’s hand to facilitate the view required without exposing the surgeon to radiation. These very practical tips are of great use.

The book is reasonably priced and very user-friendly, and I think it deserves a place in the office of any plastic surgeon who works on hands.

Gary Neil Goldstein, M.D.


"Cosmetic surgery in this country is both under-regulated and lucrative—a dangerous combination from the consumer’s point of view." This quote from Are You Considering Cosmetic Surgery?, by Arthur W. Perry, M.D., and Robin K. Levinson, captures the dilemma that makes their book pertinent to prospective cosmetic surgery patients. Fortunately for their audience, the book is extraordinarily well written, even-handed in its treatment of a number of topics but with enough bite to focus on