

## Book Review

**Cleft Craft: The Evolution of Its Surgery. III. Alveolar and Palatal Deformities.** 1980, \$125. By D. Ralph Millard, Jr. 1211 pages with illustrations. Little, Brown and Company, Boston.

“Ralph,” as we like to refer to our colleague (D. Ralph Millard, Jr.), now offers us the third and final outstanding volume in his trilogy of books dealing with cleft lip and cleft palate deformities. On the basis of his exceptional surgical experience, together with his collection of an apparently thorough set of references and his discussion of the world literature on this subject, Millard has succeeded in these three volumes to “chart the progress, create logical order, highlight the soundest principles and most effective modifications while condemning dangerous, obsolete and inadequate approaches in the evolution of the surgery of clefts of the lip, palate and face, from the first known Chinese work of A.D. 390 through part of A.D. 1980.”

Dr. Millard’s name is well known to residents and to young, older and senior plastic surgeons alike throughout the world. The completion of this third volume presents all plastic surgeons and all other medical and surgical specialists involved in the “team-approach” to the treatment of cleft lip-palate patients with the “Bible,” if it might be called that, upon which our up-to-date knowledge of these deformities and their treatment can always be referred to in the future with surety, respect, and even awe.

Volume I dealt with the treatment of the unilateral cleft lip, and Volume II with the treatment of the bilateral cleft lip and other rare lip deformities. This third volume deals in fine detail with the subsidiary problems and deformities that are concomitant with the basic anatomic and surgical problem of the cleft palate, with or without the presence of a cleft lip deformity and/or associated alveolar deformities. Individual chapters on the basic embryology and anatomy of the cleft palate, as well as associated problems such as dental and orthodontic problems, the problem of ear disease and hearing loss in cleft palate patients, the pre- and postoperative care including the feeding of these patients, and the type of anesthesia used in surgically repairing cleft palates are dealt with in the first section of this book.

The second section with its excellent illustrations and brief biographic profiles of the surgeons throughout the world who have contributed most to the literature on this subject, deals with the actual technique of surgical closure of the cleft. The third major section of the volume deals with lengthening the palate in those individuals whose palate is too short or inadequately shaped to permit normal speech even when closed. Other sections deal with the pharyngeal flap operation so necessary for adequate speech in these unfortunate patients; the treatment of fistulae and the failures of cleft palate closure and their management; certain aspects of mandibular and maxillary surgery necessary to treating these patients in the team approach; and an excellent section dealing

with the long term results of surgical closure including evaluation of speech, rehabilitation of the patient, and finally treating the “psyche and soul” of these patients.

Since cleft lip and cleft palate occur in 1 out of approximately every 600 children born today in the United States and to an even greater preponderance in some countries of Europe, this book is not only timely but an absolute necessity and should be in the library of every plastic surgeon, dental and oral surgeon, orthodontist, otolaryngologist, speech therapist, psychosocial case worker, clinical psychologist, and all those other dedicated people who form part of the cleft lip-palate teams which can be found in every major medical center throughout the United States today.

This book, therefore, written by probably the most experienced surgeon in the field today, is a *magnum opus* which gives us all an infinitely better understanding of the surgery of the cleft lip and cleft palate patient. The plastic surgery profession at large is deeply indebted to Dr. Millard for his years of incredible time-consuming research, clinical activities, and particularly for his integrity and his persistence in offering to us this magnificent trilogy of books.

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