

Book Review

Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. By Richard B. Stark, M.D. With a Foreword by Gustave Aufricht, M.D. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1980, \$55.00

Dick Stark, a long-standing member of our International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, offers us in his new book another example of his Renaissance-man capabilities. Having already given us his excellent 1962 textbook, "Plastic Surgery," which deals with the broad overall scope of our specialty; having recently become the innovative editor of *Annals of Plastic Surgery*; having delighted us for years with his superbly readable articles dealing with the medical history not only of plastic surgery but other aspects of surgery; and also known to his fellow plastic surgeons especially in New York City as a very accomplished artist who has exhibited frequently in art galleries of New York and other cities; we now are not at all surprised to find that he has written with the help of 11 other contributing authors, a noteworthy book dealing with aesthetic plastic surgery. This is a book which can be easily read with great interest by all of us who are concerned with our profession.

This volume deals not only with aesthetic plastic surgery of the face but of the entire body as well, and its individual chapters describe the "body image," anesthesia in aesthetic surgery, hair transplantation, the brow lift, dermabrasion, chemosurgery, the revision of scars, cosmetics as an aid to aesthetic surgery, extremity lifts, instruction to patients, in addition to all those other standard chapters which one would expect in a book of aesthetic plastic surgery dealing with blepharoplasty, rhytidectomy, rhinoplasty, mentoplasty, otoplasty, augmentation mammoplasty, breast reduction, and abdominal lipectomy.

One of the interesting chapters has been written by his lovely wife, Judy, to whom he dedicates his book, "with love," and it deals specifically with "cosmetics as an aid to aesthetic surgery." All of the chapters are especially useful because at the end of each, one can find an up-to-date and accurate bibliography listing not all but some of the most comprehensive and valuable papers which have been written on each specific subject included in that chapter. The Subject Index and the Name Index are very comprehensive and will be quite useful to students as well as junior and senior plastic surgeons, who wish to use this volume for quick cross-referencing and study.

Another interesting feature of the book is the consistent layout of each chapter which follows a similar format, such that the specific surgical procedure under discussion is dealt with in the following format: history, philosophy of surgical correction, preoperative preparation, operative technique, postoperative management, possible complications and their management, and secondary procedures. As a review of many but not all of the current methods and techniques now in use, as well as some of the innovations in techniques which have been introduced into the literature within recent years, each chapter is well illustrated with numerous photographs of pre- and postoperative results of the surgery in patients as well as photographs of the operative procedures taken during the actual surgery itself.

The only criticism of some of these photographs, especially those taken illustrating pre- and postoperative results, is that the photographs quite often are light-struck, or some are occasionally out of focus and not as sharply detailed as one would prefer. One would hope, therefore, that in a future second edition of this book that more attention will be paid to requesting the individual authors of each chapter to perfect their medical photography or at least to leave this aspect of their practice in the hands of full-time and skilled medical photographers who would take their pre- and postoperative photographs as well as photographs of the surgery itself. Despite the inconsistency in the caliber of these photographs, however, this should not deter the reader from adding this valuable textbook to his library, nor should it prevent him from having a great deal of enjoyment and education in the reading of it.

Blair O. Rogers, M.D.
Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery
New York University Medical Center