
This is an account of the use of cosmetic prostheses in making good deficiencies, either congenital or acquired, in various parts of the body. The author has had a unique training for this type of work, being essentially an artist who obviously possesses much skill in sculpture. The book, presumably directed towards workers in the field of prosthetics, has considerable technical detail relative to the construction and colouring of prosthetic appliances. It is surprising, though, that latex is used almost exclusively for the prostheses. In this country, hard acrylic or silicone have largely replaced latex on account of their more durable qualities.

The creation of an artificial ear is taken as a basic model in the art of prosthetic construction and is given due emphasis. The method of duplicating the patient's natural ear in each case seems unnecessarily painstaking, although obviously the ideal. When it comes to applying prostheses in facial defects, the author uses the technique of modelling the head ('portrait sculpture') rather than the standard method of making a face mask. His method does demand considerable skill such as he possesses as a sculptor but which would be difficult to acquire by someone lacking his gifts.

The chapters on artificial hands is the best in the book. He rightly stresses the value of cosmetically acceptable prostheses in persons who have either lost a hand or who have been born without one. He shows some beautiful results. The type of prosthesis used, namely a slip-on, flexible glove, is similar to that employed for a number of years by Dr. J. Pillet of Paris, who prefers silicone to latex.

There are one or two medical inaccuracies, e.g., regarding the nomenclature of skin malignancies. The text is well written and the photographic reproductions are of moderate quality. There must inevitably be a small market for such a book with its emphasis on the sculptor's skill. This is not what the average technician requires.

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Occupational Disease in California Attributed to Pesticides and Other Agricultural Chemicals 1970. (Pp. 33; 10 tables; copies available free on request as long as supply lasts from: The Bureau of Occupational Health and Environmental Epidemiology, State of California, Department of Public Health, 2151 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, California 94704.)

Previous reports have been reviewed in earlier issues of the Journal (25, 157, 1968; 27, 294, 1970; 29, 345, 1972) and