


---

**BOOK REVIEW**

**Practical Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery,**

Neven Olivari, Kaden Publishing, Heidelberg, 2008,


During one of the tea breaks at the Winter BAPRAS meeting in December 2008, Anthony Attwood tapped me on the shoulder and said that there was someone he wanted me to meet. He took me over to a corner of the dining room where Dr Peter Arnold (who delivered the 2008 McIndoe Lecture entitled 'War Wounds: A Compelling Equation and speed up the transition from incompetence to competence. A unique book, an excellent book. Superlatives are not enough.'

But what is special about this book? It represents the distillation of over 40 years of surgical experience presented as a 'practical operative atlas' where the pictures tell the story. The text has been kept to a minimum and whilst many of the illustrations are excellent series of clinical photographs what really gives these meaning and perspective are the wonderful illustrations referred to by Professor Arnold in his forward. The combination is powerful and if any author reading this wonders what I mean when I send a paper back asking for a diagram to augment the clinical photographs this text shows how this can be done; to perfection. At the same time I doubt if many contemporary authors would consider using their own diagrams with the ready availability of computer graphics. Ian Jackson is correct; this will be a classic text. I do not expect to see another example of such a text written by a single author, so comprehensive in coverage, so beautifully illustrated and so eminently readable. I think this book will appeal particularly to those in the second of the four stages of surgical maturation i.e. conscious incompetence. This is the real growth phase of the future surgeon and being able to see how a Master surgeon has dealt with so many clinical challenges will feed practical knowledge into the equation and speed up the transition from incompetence to competence. A unique book, an excellent book. Superlatives are not enough.

Andrew Burd,
Editor, *JPRAS*

© 2009 Published by Elsevier Ltd on behalf of British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons.

doi:10.1016/j.bjps.2009.02.041