

An Informal Report on the Joint Conference of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons and the Societe Francaise de Chirurgie Plastique et Reconstructive

Joya Chowdhury, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.E.

Plastic Surgery Unit, Calcutta Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta

The Joint Conference of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons and the Societe Francaise de Chirurgie Plastique et Reconstructive was held this year in Deauville France from June 14-17.

I attended the Conference and thought that you might like to know about it. This is an informal report about the Conference; a few lines are written about some of the papers and films and the clinical programme is reproduced. Before going any further, I would like to say how good it was to meet so many plastic surgeons who remembered several Indian colleagues with good will and affection. Many asked after their friends in India and expressed their goodwishes. The surgeons who particularly asked about different friends and sent their greetings were Mr. Bodenham, Mr. Stewart Harrison, Mr. John Mustarde, Mr. Frank Innes, Mr. Jayes, Mr. Rozner, and Mr. Peter Randall. Mr. A.F. (Tony) Wallace expects to visit India soon.

Venue of the Conference :

Deauville, one of the most popular beach resorts in France. Delegates stayed at Royal Hotel and the Conference was held in the Conference Hall of the Casino.

Language-Papers were presented in French and English, and excellent facilities for simultaneous translation were available. Each speaker was given a cassette for loading their slides before the start of the Conference, so that mistakes during projection could only be one's own fault!

Commentary :

Each paper was followed by a brief commentary by a surgeon of the Counterpart Association. Papers presented by members of the B.A.P.S. were commented upon by French Society members and vice versa. The commentary highlighted points of interest in the paper and opened the discussion which followed.

Scientific Programme :

Round Table : Tissue loss of the lower third of the nose.

Chairman : Raoul Sandon.

Matthews(London): Defects of the nose tip.

Dufourmental :

(Paris) Composite grafts for repair of loss of substance of the inferior third of the nose.

Penn :

(Johannesburg) Difficulties of reconstru-

ction including the use of large distant flaps.
 Jost : Mutilations of the inferior (Paris) third of the nose after corrective rhinoplasty.

Short papers

- Grigon : The burnt nose in the (Paris) burnt face
 Commentator : Beare.
 Stricer : The reinnervation of the (Nancy) paralysed face with muscle pedicle transplant.
 Commentator : Kinmonth
 Chowdhury (Calcutta) : The versatile median forehead flap.
 Commentator : Morel Fatio
 Vaillant et al (Paris) : Surgical treatment of fractures of the dentulous portion of the mandible 350 cases.
 Commentator : Dawson.
 Romie et al : Immunologic changes in (Montpellier) burned patients.
 Commentator : Evans

16th June 1972 :

Round Table-Wounds of the Dorsum of the Hand

- Chairman : Raoul Tubiana
 Barron : Primary treatment of (Salisbury) wounds of the dorsum of the hand and fingers.
 Harrison : Primary treatment of (Windsor) Injuries to the Extensor Apparatus.

- Colson : Treatment of Contrac- (Lyon) tures of the dorsum of the hand and fingers.
 Michon : Tendinous and articular (Nancy) sequele of injuries of the dorsum.

Short Papers

- Morgan : Silastic sheet arthroplasty (Glasgow) of the wrist joint.
 Commentator : Reid.
 Lagrot et al : Fatalities from cancer in (Toulouse) radiodermatitis of hands of doctors.
 Commentator : Bodenham.
 Hackett : The use of Thermography (EastGrinstead)
 Commentator : Mouly.
 Acland : Immediate skin flap tran- (London) fer by microvascular surgery in rates.
 Commentator : Michon.

15th June 1972

Short Papers

- Wilson : Combined cranio-facial (London) resection of tumours involving the orbital walls.
 Commentator : Marchac.
 Behan : Application of experi- (London) mental techniques into the blood supply of flaps and correlation of these with cancer surgery of the head and neck.
 Commentator : Greco.
 Wynn-Williams (Nottingham) : Treatment of Squamous

cell carcinoma of nasal mucosa.

Commentator : Goumain.

Petit et al : The bone graft in treatment of unilateral clefts. (Paris)

Commentator : Broomhead.

Jackson : A re-appraisal of cleft lip (Glasgow) repair.

Commentator : Gosserez.

Cendron et al : Surgery of the external genitalia in female pseudo-hermaphrodites. (Paris)

Commentator : Sandon.

Films

1. Robin (Paris) : Sub-mucous Rhinoplasty.
2. Tessier (Paris) and Matthews : Craniofacial operation (London) for correction of Cranio-Synostosis, Apert.
3. Joss : (Norwich) The Bone graft without grafting.

The two Round Tables

The Round Tables set out various methods in common use and the audience participated with the aid of comments or questions. The first Round Table dealt with soft tissue injuries of the lower third of the nose; various flaps including composite flaps were described and merits and demerits were discussed. Cases presented included accidental and surgical trauma, and also examples of disastrous cosmetic rhinoplasties. The second Round Table highlighted particular problems of reconstruction of injuries of the

dorsum of the hand. The importance of the mobile skin, the proximity of the tendons and disabilities caused by various injuries were pointed out. The speakers presented excellent slides illustrating various modes of coverages and repair of deeper structure.

Some Short Papers

The use of thermography. A paper presented by M. E. J. Hackett of East Grinstead explained the technique of thermography to study pedicles. The thermographic study was demonstrated as a series of coloured areas projected on a T.V. screen ranging from blue indicating areas of least vascularity to red indicating excellent supply. This study helps to determine :

1. Which is the dominant end of a flap.
2. When the flap is ready to move.
3. If delay is necessary.
4. Study of the use of various techniques such as heating cooling and compression of flaps.

The papers was illustrated by a colour film,

This was a very interesting and illustrative paper. The equipment is expensive but easy to use.

Combined Cranio-Facial Resection of Tumours Involving the Orbital Walls

J.S.P. Wilson of London discussed the management of orbital tumours in three groups.

1. Lateral 1/3 tumours fixed to the lateral wall treated by exenteration of orbital contents in continuity with the lateral wall.

2. Central tumours spreading peripherally. Excision of tumour and resection of entire bony orbit via lateral craniotomy.

3. Medial 1/3 tumours spreading to medial wall, nose, ethmoids and anterior cranial fossa. Excision by frontocranial approach.

The Management of each group was discussed including methods of excision, techniques of repair, and prevention of complications. Excellent slides of illustrative cases supported this most interesting paper.

Application of Experimental Techniques into the Blood Supply of Flaps, and the Correlation of these with Cancer Surgery of the Head and Neck.

F.C. Behan of London demonstrated by X-Ray and cine radiographic studies the vascular pattern in the deltopectoral and the extended deltopectoral flaps. The double perforator arterial system originating from the 2nd interspace and from the cephalic branch of the thoraco-acromial trunk were displayed; and an anastomoses between these two vascular supplies was shown. Clinical application of this dual blood supply was described showing the use of large extended deltopectoral flaps. The flaps were used for :

1. Simultaneous lining, cover and seal for full thickness cheek defects.
2. Large temporal defect cover.
3. Pharyngeal fistula closure.

The angiographic studies presented in this paper vividly demonstrated the dual blood supply and supported the safe use of such large flaps shown in illustrative cases.

The Phalangisations of the Metacarpals.

R. Tubiana of Paris discussed the importance of phalangisations of the 1st and 5th metacarpals in the grossly mutilated hands. Steps of the operations and illustrative cases showing the remarkable amount of post operative hand function gained by these procedures were depicted by means of beautiful slides.

Silastic sheet arthroplasty of the wrist joint. A paper presented by R. G. Morgan of Glasgow described the indications of surgery, the operative technique, and follow up of 16 patients over a two year period, in whom this technique had been used.

The joint was exposed through a large S-shaped dorsal incision, the extensor retinaculum divided the extensor tendons retracted, and the radiocarpal joint freed. A sheet of silastic is inserted into the joint space and the retinaculum placed beneath the extensor tendons. The wrist is put in a P.O.P. splint for a week, thereafter movement is started. A follow-up study revealed relief of pain in all cases, though in a few this was incomplete. Range of movement and ability to perform tasks which they had been unable to do before, were seen in all cases. Very fine slides with composite exposures to compare the pre and post-operative range of movement illustrated the results of the operation.

Films

Cranio-Facial Osteotomy : P Tessier (Paris) and D. N. Matthews (London)

One of the highlights of the Conference was this beautiful 16 m.m. colour film with

magnetic sound, of the cranio-facial osteotomy performed at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, London, during the 1971 Summer Meeting of the B.A.P.S.

The operation was televised live in colour and lasted almost 12 hours, being interposed with descriptive explanations using diagrams and models. The 12 hr. T.V. tape was cut and edited superbly under close supervision of the two surgeons, to produce this excellent film, running just over 1 hour.

The operative procedure is described in the paper "The Definitive Plastic Surgical Treatment of the Severe Facial Deformities of Cranio-facial Dysostosis" Paul Tessier, *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* Vol. 48, No. 5, Page 419, Nov, 1971.

Bone Graft Without Grafting: A film presented in French by G. Joss of Norwich, illustrated the technique of Periosteoplasty. The operation described was a combination of the Skoog technique with Campbell flaps, to produce periosteal apposition over a larger area and more deposition of new bone. The technique was demonstrated in a 6 months old child with a very wide cleft. The periosteal pocket was packed with Surgical to separate the layers. Follow up studies were shown.

The Scientific sessions ended each day at lunch time. The afternoon was free for sports including golf, tennis and swimming.

On June 15 a tour was arranged to visit the Landing beaches and Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches. Many of the senior plastic

surgeons remembered the days of the Second World War, standing upon the site of the landing of the British forces to liberate France from occupation.

A visit to see the famous Bayeux tapestry depicting the Norman conquest completed this most interesting trip.

A formal Reception by both the President of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons—Mr. Raoul Sandon and the President of the Societe Francaise de Chirurgie Plastique et Reconstructive—M. Raoul Tubiana was held at the Salon de Ambassadeurs, Casino De Deauville on June 16th. This was followed by a Gala Banquet.

The two Presidents, both Raouls, presented their addresses, Mr. Sandon speaking excellent French, and Mr. Tubiana, excellent English. On behalf of the B. A. P. S. Mr. Sandon presented Mr. Tubiana and the French Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, a beautiful Presidential Chain of Office. Mr. Tubiana presented to Mr. Sandon for the B.A.P.S. a modern metal sculpture depicting two knights riding side by side, signifying the amicability and friendship between the British Association and French Societe.

A splendid display of fireworks completed this memorable Banquet.

If what happened at Deauville is a preview of what will happen at the 'International' in Paris, we can look forward to a warm welcome, excellent hospitality admirable arrangements for scientific sessions and plenty of joie de vivre!