over other materials when they are used as reinforcement in plastic structures and are available to the industry in both the short length or staple form and in continuous lengths. Many glass cloths and weave types are available, and further variety is afforded by choice of the type of glass from which the fibers are made.

Discussion of the chemistry of resins covers the polyesters, phenolics, epoxides, silicones, melamines, and furanes. Ancillary materials, such as catalysts, fillers, accelerators, release agents, and pigments are discussed in relation to their use with different resins. The choice of glass-fiber type and resin type depends upon particular requirements, such as electric resistance, dielectric loss, or chemical resistance. The fabricator has a number of commercial production molding processes at his disposal for forming the desired shapes, including laminates, complicated shapes, tubes, and rods.

Properties of glass-reinforced plastic structures depend upon the separate properties of the glass fibers and resins used, the way in which they are combined in the shape, and the design of the article. These features have made such materials very useful in the aircraft industry, automobile and boat-building body work, and other transport applications, laminates in the electrical field, and miscellaneous applications.

This book gives a good introduction to those interested in applications of these materials. References given are sufficient for more detailed study of the subjects covered.

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Peripheral Nerve Injuries. Medical Research Council Special Rept. Ser. No. 282. H. J. Seddon, Ed. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1954. xvi + 451 pp. Illus. £2 15s.

The plans for this report were laid during World War II at the time of the appointment of a Nerve Injuries Committee headed by George Riddock, who had been secretary of a similar committee during World War I. At his untimely death, the chairmanship of this committee was taken over by H. J. Seddon. The plan in which this report was to be carried out, with regard to both the investigative work and the manner in which cases were to be followed, was a tribute to the committee. It is emphasized that the work reviewed in this report is collected from only a few selected centers headed by members of the committee. The reliability of the work performed under each member of this committee is unquestioned. The report is not an attempt to present a complete analysis of the diagnosis and treatment of injuries of the peripheral nerves but rather is a presentation of the advances made in the understanding of nerve injuries by British workers during the war years.

The report, some 428 pages, is essentially a collection of papers by the various authors. Some of these are fairly didactic in their approach, reviewing the literature in detail and presenting definite conclusions; whereas others present a definite attempt to analyze the results of treatment in certain types of cases. Special mention should be given to the initial portion of the book by Seddon, in which he emphasizes again the way in which the results were collected. His own analysis of the frequency of anomalous nerve innervation, particularly to the muscles of the human hand, is an especially important one. There are important sections on various types of nerve injuries and on the histopathology of nerve injury, causalgia, and detail presentations of electric diagnosis of peripheral nerve injury and electromyography. This factual presentation does not leave out the importance of the human factor as related to morale. This is particularly evident in the section entitled "Factors influencing functional recovery" by Ruth Bowden. A brief quotation from this section serves to emphasize this.

"Splints, active and passive exercises and physiotherapy play an important part in re-education by preventing or minimizing the adverse effects of degeneration and by maintaining mobility of the part; but one of the most significant factors appears to be the necessity for constant usage at work, in pastimes and sport.

"Surgical intervention for repair of damaged nerves or reconstruction is but an incident in the treatment, for the ultimate success of all therapeutic measures lies, to a large extent, in the hands of the patient. Once this factor is appreciated, the willing cooperation of most of them was remarkable."

A particularly useful section of this book is by Robert Zachary, who gives a statistical, as well as a detailed, analysis of the results of nerve suture. Other detailed sections on nerve grafting and brachial plexus injuries are included and are of considerable value, both in the technical details and in the statistical analyses. Of great importance is the factor brought out in the British survey that recovery in all peripheral nerves usually continues for approximately 3 years after repair and that in some cases this recovery may continue up to 5 years. The long term follow-up in a large number of the cases is therefore important.

This book is singularly free of errors and, in view of the fact that portions of it are presented by various well-known authors, it is singularly free of controversy or contradictions. It is printed on high-quality paper and is written in the usual excellent English style.

The eventual publication of this massive analysis of the teamwork of numerous British workers is a piece of work that will be of value to all neurologists and neurosurgeons and to all those interested in neuroanatomy and neurophysiology. It will be of particular value to anyone writing on any facet of peripheral nerve injury, for in this volume is contained useful information on almost all aspects of this subject.

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