CLEFT CRAFT
THE EVOLUTION OF ITS SURGERY
III. ALVEOLAR AND PALATAL DEFORMITIES
D. RALPH MILLARD, JR., M.D., F.A.C.S.
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D. RALPH MILLARD, JR.
M.D., F.A.C.S.

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CLEFT CRAFT I, II and III, with the aid of the world literature and my personal experience, have attempted to chart the progress, create logical order, highlight the soundest principles and most effective modifications while condemning dangerous, obsolete and inadequate approaches in the evolution of the surgery of clefts of the lip, palate and face, from the first known Chinese work of A.D. 390 through part of A.D. 1980.

Webster described evolution as a process of continuous change from a lower, simpler or worse state to a higher, more complex or better state. In Roget's Thesaurus, synonyms for evolution include: development, unfolding, growth, rise, maturation; entelechy, phylogeny, ontogeny, physiogeny, mitosis, vacuolation, evolutionism, Darwinism. Darwin believed in natural selection and survival of the fittest. So, too, the evolution of surgery of clefts has progressed by trial and error, results and evaluations, toward selection of surgical methods and survival of the best of these through 1,590 years.

In recording this surgical evolution, I have endeavored to follow two basic principles taught me by my father, an attorney and true southern gentleman. Abstracted they are: the importance of integrity and the necessity of persistence.

D. R. Millard