CLEFT CRAFT
THE EVOLUTION OF ITS SURGERY
II. BILATERAL AND RARE DEFORMITIES
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LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY  BOSTON
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There has always been an inherent desire in man to look like his fellowmen and not to appear horrible, peculiar or even different. Centuries before Christ, in ancient India, a Hindu by the name of Susruta Samhita understood this, when he wrote:

The love of life is next to the love of our own faces and thus the mutilated cry for help.

There has been a marked variation in the ability of man to adjust to a deformity. Comedian Durante followed his great nose to fame and fortune while the swashbuckling Cyrano de Bergerac actually came to his death because of a nose of similar size. Between these extremes the rest of us muddle along to the best of our ability.

Thus a baby born with a congenital bilateral cleft becomes a #1 priority. Such an infant, usually normal in every other aspect, has only the clefts gaping between him and his share of happiness. This has challenged thousands of surgeons over many centuries to surpass the feats of previous surgeons in the evolution of cleft craft.
and imagine for the girls
how few arms are ever offered.

SMJ '77
Yet I can dream how it would be
to walk slowly in the moonlight
with someone on my arm.
Elated, I forget myself;
but suddenly why there's
the shadow of my profile on the wall.

Edmond Rostand,
_Cyrano de Bergerac_, 1897