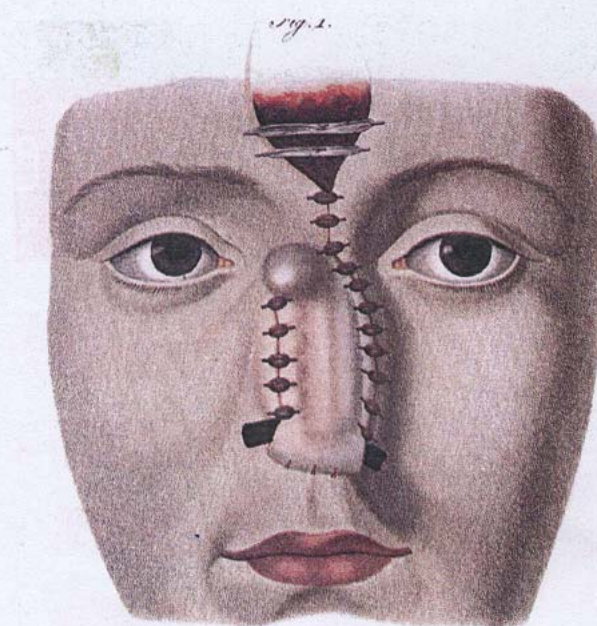


**nip and tuck** Last year, according to the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, the number of cosmetic surgery procedures performed was up by 18% on 2003. However, surgery on men rose by a staggering 60% – to 1348 procedures. The most popular of these was the good old-fashioned nose job, with ears flapping into a close second place and eyelids just drooping behind. Are we turning into Plastic Nation? It's been a long time coming, and this highly illustrated book from Taschen has a squeamish surprise on every page. And, like surgery itself (so I'm told), the book is strangely addictive, covering everything from the history of surgery (and some horrific descriptions of early non-anesthetised, let's-experiment-on-the-poor procedures) through to meditations on the nature of beauty, interviews with surgeons, and musings on the future of this most human of technologies. Now, where did I put my other face? ■ JG

Ed. Dr Angelika Taschen, Taschen, £29.99



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