The second volume deals with diseases of the skeleton. It is a competent and well-balanced text-book, with excellent illustrations of common and rare bone conditions. The chapters on diseases of the spine, and particularly on lumbar disc lesions, are based on the extensive work of Schmorl and are in the tradition of many other good radiological text-books on bone diseases, such as those by Schmorl, Junghanns and Liechti. However, in a book on radiology of surgical conditions, one would like to have read more about the post-operative radiological appearances, because an operation, after all, represents only one major incident in a sequence of events. Not enough mention is made for a book of this kind of the appearances of the bones after grafting, nailing of the femoral neck, arthrodesis, or arthroplasty. This criticism does not imply that, apart from good specialised monographs, better text-books are to be found in the Anglo-Saxon countries.

The volumes are well produced on superb paper, and have all the outstanding characteristics of German text-books of this kind, including a price of about £34 for the two volumes. Any radiological book that aims at narrowing the gap between radiology, surgery and orthopaedics meets a well-felt need, and the appreciation of this work is tinged with disappointment that its aim has not been fully achieved. It may well be that a future edition will add further emphasis on the surgical and orthopaedic aspects of diagnostic radiology, and so may find its deserved place on our bookshelves.—Henry W. Gillespie.

Surgery of the Foot. By Henri L. DuVries, M.D., Clinical Instructor in Surgery, Chicago Medical School; Attending Surgeon, Columbus Hospital, Mother Cabrini Hospital and Frank Cuneo Hospital; Chairman, Department of Surgery, Illinois College of Chiropody and Foot Surgery, Chicago. Foreword by Karl A. Meyer, M.D. Introduction by Edward L. Comperre, M.D. 10 x 7 in. Pp. 494, with 403 figures. 1959. London: Henry Kimpton. Price 93s. 6d.

This book is a product of the Chicago school of surgery and is written by one who has devoted thirty years to the study of the structure and disabilities of the human foot. From the first page he stands out as the enthusiastic leader of a crusade for better teaching of the surgery of the foot. The book is an all-embracing work of reference: nothing seems to have been left out. A list of thirty-one pathological conditions of the nail, twenty-one of which begin with the prefix “onycho…” may appear complete though not particularly helpful, but exemplifies the methodical mind of the author. There is a good deal of repetition, operative details often being given in the text as well as in diagrams. These, throughout, are excellent, and I was impressed by the simple method of showing essential anatomical points.

It is perhaps odd that more space has not been devoted to common deformities which we find so difficult to treat. I found it disappointing that there are only three pages on the etiology and treatment of congenital talipes and very little guidance in the management of older children with relapse of this condition. Other points that surprised me were the application of tourniquets to the mid-calf, the dosage of a local anaesthetic given as 1 minim of a 1:1000 solution in 10 millilitres (surely a mixed terminology), the use of silver nitrate for cauterising granulation tissue. To summarise—it is a pity that so much space has been devoted to short sections inserted merely for the sake of completeness and conveying little useful information. The same may be said of certain operations which are described in detail only to be rejected.

Having said these things, words of praise are not to be forgotten, and I have read this book from cover to cover with much interest and profit. The chapter on static deformities and the section on callosities of the sole are particularly helpful. Anyone who is concerned with the surgery of the foot should read this work, the production of which is beyond reproach.—H. L.-C. Wood.


This work comes from Würzburg. "The cradle of German orthopaedics.” Its author is the present holder of the chair of orthopaedics in that beautiful city and also is the President of the German Orthopaedic Society. Early in the book it is remarked that in ancient medical literature much is to be found upon the treatment of club foot but nothing about flat foot, which the author regards as a disease of modern civilisation and for which our unphysiological footwear has much to answer. That a work of over 360 pages should be devoted to this subject seems to us remarkable, because flat foot is but one element of the problem of the static and developmental disorders of the foot.
Apart from the congenital flat foot due to a vertical talus (broken flat foot—knickplattfuss), the paralytic valgus deformities, spastic pes valgus and arthritic deformities, we in Great Britain feel that flat feet, so long as they are mobile and have good muscle control, are relatively unimportant compared with the large amount of disability due to such forefoot conditions as hallux valgus and metatarsalgia. Certainly in this field most European and North American surgeons must view with some anxiety the great volume of trouble being provided for the future in the disgraceful shoes for women, now so fashionable. In this volume the presentation of the valgus foot in all its aspects is thorough and there is a good review of the literature, particularly in relation to operative methods: it is also illuminated by the author's original contributions and his attractive philosophy. It is well produced and gives a valuable outline of present day German ideas and practice.—Norman CAPENER.


This is an excellent comprehensive book on lesions of the shoulder which should be read by all orthopaedic surgeons in the original. The quality of the illustrations deserves special praise: there are many drawings of beautiful clarity, and the reproductions of radiographs leave nothing to be desired. In addition, the text is well subdivided so that with 208 illustrations in 167 pages it makes an easily readable book.

The authors rightly devote the first chapter (and a third of the book) to the consideration of "periartthritis" of the shoulder. The anatomical and physiological peculiarities of the shoulder are considered in relation to the known pathological data. Three clinical types are described, the painful arc of movement, the acute painful shoulder with movement much restricted by pain and muscle spasm, and the frozen shoulder limited by mechanical causes more than by pain. The classical view of the special vulnerability of the tendons of supraspinatus and long head of biceps is shown to be only part of the truth; nor is it a simple matter of extending inflammation to serous bursae analogous with peritonitis. Certainly there is ample evidence from clinical examination, from arthrography and from operative inspection that the lesion in a frozen shoulder is a process of adhesive capsulitis with contracture and not due to subdeltoid adhesions. Periarthritis is also considered in relation to the "shoulder-arm" syndrome with diverse etiological factors such as cervical spondylosis, coronary thrombosis, hemiplegia, Parkinson's disease, pulmonary infections and even visceral lesions. In treatment the authors could well have considered the general management more closely in relation to the natural history of the disease. Too much emphasis is put upon medicinal and injection therapy, and the place of controlled exercises and manipulation under anaesthesia is hardly mentioned.

Chapter 2 is devoted to infective arthritis, and the different types of tuberculous pathology are well illustrated in radiographs. Excision of the lesion is preferred to arthrodesis of the shoulder, and good active mobility is claimed if the resection does not have to be extensive.

The remainder of the book is full of interest. There is a brief discussion of rheumatic disease, gout, osteoarthritis and neurological arthropathy, and the final section, on osseous pathology, includes the rarities such as echinococcus infection, epiphysial dysplasias, Brailsford-Morquio disease and melorheostosis, together with a section on avascular necrosis and tumours.—G. Blundell Jones.