

THE FOUNDATIONS OF SURGERY. By George PERKINS, *M.C.*, *M.Ch.*, *F.R.C.S.*, Professor of Surgery, London University; Orthopaedic Surgeon, St Thomas's Hospital.  $7\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$ . Pp. viii + 236. Index. 1954. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Price 10s.

"Surgery for Toddlers," as its author calls it, is the child of an orthopaedic surgeon become professor of surgery; here are his thoughts on impetigo and the icteric index almost side-by-side with the distinction between dislocation and subluxation. This pithy, epigrammatic work deals with two things: first, the group of subjects that so ponderously introduce every surgical text-book—healing, inflammation, infection, gangrene and so forth; and secondly clinical examination of the patient. In this the student is encouraged to develop his own methods at the bedside, as he must, but the necessary introduction is well set out. The author's brevity, lucidity and logic are the symbols of clear thought and of the successful teacher of undergraduates, who must needs forget that frail, feminine Nature is not always to be wooed by logic. We only wish that the student could be introduced to every subject—atomy, physiology, physic and so on—by such a book and such a teacher. One criticism we have. Professor Perkins learnt his anatomy when the books used one terminology (*B.N.A.*) and many teachers another (the "old"). Now all British anatomists teach in a third nomenclature (*Birmingham revised*—much the best of the bunch), and are threatening a fourth. This isn't Professor Perkins's fault, but he ought to write the language that his readers know; brackets are the place for the old (*os calcis*, etc.) or the nondescript ("subtaloid"). The book reflects the sparkle of its author.—H. JACKSON BURROWS.

STUDIES ON HIBBS' SPINE FUSION IN THE TREATMENT OF SCOLIOSIS. By Bjarni JONSSON.  $9 \times 6\frac{1}{4}$  in. Pp. 139, with 46 figures, 9 tables, and case histories with many figures. 1953. *Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica*, Supplement 14. Copenhagen: Ejnar Munksgaard. Price D. kr. 30.

This monographic supplement is of interest to all who are studying this difficult subject. There are several reasons why they should find it so. One of these is that there is a very large bibliography of the suggested causes and treatment of the deformity; there are some 184 references. Another is that the material on which the paper is based is a careful analysis of 208 patients with scoliosis operated on at the New York Orthopaedic Hospital. Certain indications for operation are discussed, and the results of spinal fusion analysed from all possible angles. The average maintained correction in 138 cases followed for five or more years was 18 degrees. The final forty-two pages consist entirely of case reports, with clinical photographs and radiographs. There are many things that every student of the subject will disagree with. This is true of any extensive writing on this subject.—J. C. SCOTT.

THE MUNKSFORS INVESTIGATION. A study of the Frequency and Causes of the Stiff Neck-Brachialgia and Lumbago-Sciatica Syndromes, as well as observations on certain Signs and Symptoms from the Dorsal Spine and the Joints of the Extremities in Industrial and Forest Workers. By Lennart HULT, from the Orthopaedic Clinic of Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm.  $9 \times 6$  in. Pp. 76, with 54 tables. 1954. *Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica*, Supplement 16. Copenhagen: Ejnar Munksgaard. Price D. kr. 12.

Essentially this is a statistical study of the etiology and frequency of cervical and lumbar pain syndromes, and their association with radiological degenerative changes, in some five hundred persons chosen from three different types of worker. Boys and youths of miscellaneous occupations form the first group, sheet-iron workers the second, and foresters employed in heavy work under difficult climatic conditions the third. The investigation also embodies similar observations on disabilities of the limbs and peripheral joints. So comprehensive a clinical adventure of this sort, into the tangled jungle of skeletal pain, is liable to become lost in detail and produce a host of facts of doubtful value. In this study the field of investigation has been well disciplined, permitting simple conclusions which are significant but not startlingly novel or contrary to general belief.