

Book Reviews

Clinical Orthopaedics. Editor-in-Chief Anthony F. DEPALMA, with the Assistance of the Associate Editors, the Board of Advisory Editors and the Board of Corresponding Editors. Number Twenty. Disorders of the Shoulder Joint. $10\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ in. Pp. xi+272, with many figures and tables. Index. 1961. Number Twenty-one. Back Disorders in Children. $10\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ in. Pp. ix+244, with many figures and tables. Index. 1961. Number Twenty-two. Diseases of the Hip in Children. $10\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ in. Pp. xii+253, with many figures and tables. Index. 1962. Philadelphia and Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company, London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Price 60s. each.

This journal, sponsored by the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons, is now issued four times a year. Each issue is divided into two sections—the first a group of articles dealing with some special aspect of orthopaedic surgery; the second a collection of miscellaneous articles interesting not only to orthopaedic surgeons but to those in allied specialities and even to general practitioners.

In the three issues reviewed here the symposia are on Disorders of the Shoulder Joint, Back Disorders in Children, and Diseases of the Hip in Children.

The articles are for the most part interesting and well presented, although incomplete in parts and containing little that is new. This is perhaps to be expected as these volumes are probably intended to form a text-book rather than to publish new ideas or new experimental work. The articles on the whole are rather uneven and, on many subjects, inadequate. Arthrographs are apparently much more used in America and are made even of lesions of the acromio-clavicular joint, of which joint there is a good review.

The volumes started intending to form a “solid background in the time-tested, thoroughly proved methods of treatment and aids in diagnosis.” They are perhaps a little grandiloquent, but well produced and illustrated and are a useful addition to any departmental library.—Walter MERCER.

The Management of Fractures and Soft Tissue Injuries. By the Committee on Trauma, American College of Surgeons. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ in. Pp. xx+372, with 61 figures. Index. 1960. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company Ltd. Price 35s.

This book may also be obtained in two separate editions, *An Outline of the Treatment of Fractures* at 12s. and *Early Care of Acute Soft Tissue Injury* at 16s. The combined edition is bound in cloth covers, but the two separate editions are each bound in paper covers.

When I heard that a second edition of the *Early Care of Soft Tissue Injuries* was being published I offered to review it thinking of the pleasure it would give me to praise a book for which I have a great respect. I did not realise that this new edition was to be combined with another volume, *An Outline of the Treatment of Fractures*, a work which has now reached its seventh edition, and for which I am much less enthusiastic.

I am unable to see why any volume which presents in short form a subject which covers a wide field should be criticised because some particular section has been omitted or inadequately treated, though this could easily be done. Materials included in this volume occupy space which could be much better devoted to enlarge on missing aspects of other subjects. The unnecessary inclusions are the details of positioning in radiological examination and a scheme of measuring and recording joint function. The test of a sound student's text-book is similar to the test imposed by an adult on a fairy story. Not only should it keep children interested, but it should not bore the adult reading to them. If this test is applied to the section on the “Care of Soft Tissue Injuries” no one could say that their interest flagged, but the writing in the section on fractures is uneven and dull. This becomes more obvious now that the two editions are combined together, and I hope this will stimulate a more thorough revision of the section on fractures so that it can be brought up to the