

standard of the work on soft-tissue injuries. If this were done the book would be an admirable summary which should be in every Casualty Department and in the hands of every Casualty Officer.

It is curious that a Committee which is sufficiently clear headed to grade its members into "Active" and "Senior" should place the cart before the horse in binding these two books together. On any grounds the book on soft-tissue injuries should take precedence over fractures. The American College of Surgeons deserves full credit for the work they have done on this publication and I hope they will do more. The last chapter refers to bites: 1. Human bite wounds; 2. Animal bite wounds.

It might be possible in a new edition to include a section on "Critics' bites."—J. G. BONNIN.

Injuries and Infections of the Hand. By R. H. C. ROBINS, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., F.R.C.S., Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Exeter; Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro; Hunterian Professor, Royal College of Surgeons. 10×8 in. Pp. xii+220, with 157 figures (10 in colour). Index. 1961. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. Price 63s.

"A guide to the treatment of injuries and infections of the hand for surgeons having responsibility for them in casualty and accident departments, and particularly for those starting work in this field" could be the sub-title of this book. The basic principles are concisely stated, the necessity for understanding the closely packed anatomy, the technique of gentle handling, and the great importance of avoiding haematoma and oedema.

The section on infections is based on the author's own experience of 1,000 consecutive cases, which emphasises the importance of the commoner lesions, and the comparative rarity of those to which most attention is usually directed.

In the section on injuries the problems are clearly stated, and the simple treatments given for the simpler lesions. In the case of the more complicated injuries the treatment is outlined shortly, but not given in too great detail.

Finally, there is an outline of the reconstructive measures available, sufficient to interest a young surgeon, but without excessive detail; enough to encourage him to treat the original injuries in such a way that the best possible results can be obtained later.

This is an excellent book, clear, concise, and beautifully illustrated and printed. It should be made available to all Casualty Officers and Orthopaedic Registrars, who, it must be realised, are responsible for the primary treatment of most of the hand injuries in this country.—H. Graham STACK.

Orthopädisch-Chirurgische Operationslehre. Text-book of Orthopaedic Operative Surgery. By Max LANGE, Director of the Munich Orthopaedic Clinic; Professor of Munich University. Second edition. 10½×7½ in. Pp. 967, with 1,198 figures. 1962. München: J. F. Bergmann. Price DM 188.

Just as in an English-speaking orthopaedic hospital a volume of Campbell's *Operative Orthopaedics* is necessary, so is this volume necessary in a German-speaking hospital. The nature of such a work inevitably tends to make it resemble a catalogue. It is therefore a pity to introduce the volume with illustrations of surgical instruments, some of which are rather out of date, which encourages the comparison of the volume with a surgical instrument catalogue. No mention is made of the use of compressed air drills or saws, and this light and powerful instrument is of great help and has considerable advantages over electrical appliances. Other useful and up-to-date tools and appliances are omitted and it seems scarcely necessary to illustrate the primary tools of the craft.

In the general section insufficient attention is given to skin suturing and the technique of skin closure in general. While stainless steel wire is mentioned in the text no detailed description of its use in orthopaedic surgery is given nor is plaited stainless steel wire mentioned. In the general section on osteotomy, although numerous osteotomies are carefully illustrated, the more useful and generally applicable Mommensen's osteotomy is neither mentioned nor illustrated.

In the discussion of recurrent dislocation of the shoulder Bankart's operation is mentioned and the procedure only half-heartedly recommended, but a variant using fascial slings is illustrated in detail. Putti-Platt's procedure is well illustrated as is the placing of bone blocks, but there is no comparison of the end results.

All text-books collect some peculiar procedures or perhaps anyone reading through a book of this type inevitably thinks some procedure is peculiar. In this case I award the palm to the appliance for drilling through both sacro-iliac bones utilising only three small skin incisions in order to place a graft for a double sacro-iliac arthrodesis. It is also inevitable that one learns something