

**Handbuch der Orthopädie.** Edited by Prof. Dr G. HOHMAN, emer. Direktor der Orthopädischen Universitäts-Poliklinik und Orthopädischen Klinik München; Prof. Dr M. HACKENBROCH, Direktor der Orthopädischen Universitätsklinik Köln; and Prof. Dr K. LINDEMANN, Direktor der Orthopädischen Universitätsklinik Heidelberg-Schlierbach. Volume IV/Part 2. Spezielle Orthopädie: Untere Extremität.  $10\frac{1}{2} \times 8$  in. Pp. xvi+651, with 440 illustrations in 331 figures. Index. 1961. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Price DM 129.

**Registerband.** Namen- und Sachregister. Compiled by Dr Med. Walter M. DÖRR, Heidelberg.  $10\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$  in. Pp. viii+162. 1962. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Price DM 36.

Volumes I-IV and Registerband: 1957-62. Price DM 787.

The fourth volume of this series which has been previously reviewed in the Journal deals with the main orthopaedic conditions of the leg and foot.

Fourteen authors join in studying, among others, congenital deformities of the leg and foot, including pseudarthrosis of tibia and pes equino-varus; acute and chronic osteomyelitis, "degenerative" bone diseases of the feet, including Kohler's and calcaneal osteochondritis, flat and cavus feet, trauma, ischaemic conditions and tumours, concluding with a chapter on amputations.

This volume maintains the high quality of its predecessors in most of the individual contributions and in its printing, and continues to offer readers outside Germany the opportunity of being acquainted with the views prevailing there on orthopaedic conditions, as presented by a very distinguished group of senior men, not excluding people from the post-war generation.

The thoroughness of the bibliographic references at the end of each section varies with each author, but the majority naturally mostly quote German literature, but show a wide outlook including pertinent Anglo-Saxon and French references and a number from the Italian journals or those written in Spanish.

It is impossible for the reviewer to enter into a detailed evaluation of the merits of each particular section of this last volume, which we have called the "Opus Magnus" of contemporary German orthopaedics, as it would only show the views and preferences of the reviewer and, in general, those of the British orthopaedic surgeons. On occasions, however, we would have been pleased if the German approach was closer to our own, as, for instance, in the section on osteomyelitis where more attention should have been paid to the role of early surgery in preventing the establishment of chronicity.

This volume is followed by a general index of names and subjects printed separately (reference, title, page, etc.) compiled by Dr W. M. Dörr. It appears that the index has been accurately compiled even if we have been hurt to find the name of the reviewer wrongly spelt with two t's in the final syllable!—J. TRUETA.

**Die Traumatologie des Kniegelenks.** Diagnostik und Therapie. Injuries of the Knee Joint. By Dr Med. S. WELLER, and Dr Med. E. KÖHNLEIN, Chirurgische Universitätsklinik Freiburg i. Br. With a foreword by Prof. Dr H. KRAUSS, Direktor der Chirurgischen Universitätsklinik, Freiburg i. Br.  $9\frac{3}{4} \times 7$  in. Pp. viii+221, with 234 illustrations in 146 figures. Index. 1962. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Price DM 49.50.

The standard text-book on injuries to the knee joint is beginning to assume a uniform pattern. This is a tribute to the general dissemination of knowledge, but also an indication of its limitations and the fact that no radical change has been made in the treatment of disorders of the knee joint in the past ten years, as far as trauma is concerned. It is an excellent little volume, omitting nothing but introducing nothing new. It is perhaps more interesting to contrast the three main text-books on this subject, of which this is one, than to review the present volume in great detail.

There seems to be a natural tendency for German authors to overwrite their subject and this book is exceptional in being short and to the point, while Lewin's book, the American authority, is both exhaustive and exhausting; true, it deals with all aspects of knee disease as well as injury. Smillie's book lies somewhere between the two and remains superior to both.

There is nothing in this volume to persuade English readers that his mentors have neglected their subject and a great deal to emphasise the original contribution that English authors have made to this field, of which they have every right to be proud.—J. G. BONNIN.