

A book of this size should also have contained a general review of the endocrine control of calcium metabolism, particularly since the work on vitamin D has made such rapid progress in the last few years.

It is claimed that the book is aimed at non-specialists and should be read by researchers in arthritis, orthopaedics, and dentistry and by biochemists and cell biologists. One cannot help feeling that a general audience will find the thirty-three chapters and 899 pages in the book very heavy going. At £22.50 it makes expensive bed-time reading. Even so, the reviewer enjoyed the clarity of writing, the illustrations and the opportunity of being able to learn again from writings of some of the most outstanding contributors in the skeleton field.

“When shall this slough of sense be cast,
This dust of thoughts be laid at last,
The man of flesh and soul be slain,
And the man of bones remain?”

(A. E. Houseman—*A Shropshire Lad*).—Robert B. DUTHIE.

Fractures and Dislocations in Children. By Andrew G. POLLEN, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Bedford General Hospital. 25 × 19.5 cm. Pp. vii + 234, with 205 figures. Index. 1973. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. Price £5.50.

In his introduction the author says that fractures in children cause considerable anxiety to staff in the Accident Department and he has set out in this book to provide a reference work and guide to the management of these conditions. Skull, facio-maxillary and chest wall fractures are excluded.

The book admirably fulfils the author's intentions and provides a clear and authoritative guide on treatment, drawing attention to the complications, dangers and pitfalls in each section. It is profusely and beautifully illustrated and the text is clear and simple. It can be warmly welcomed as a valuable addition to the small number of essential volumes on the accident officer's shelf.—James ELLIS.

Pratique de Traumatologie Vasculaire des Membres. (Practical Vascular Traumatology of the Limbs.) By P. IMBERT and P. TOURNIGAND. 24 × 18 cm. Pp. 140, with 56 figures. 1973. Paris: Doin éditeurs. Price 86 fr.

This is an excellent practical manual on the management of arterial injuries in civilian practice, based on the authors' collective experience of ninety-seven cases treated at the Clinique chirurgicale de la Conception, Marseille. Although the work makes no pretensions to being an exhaustive volume on its subject, there is little of importance that is omitted. The list of references at the end of each chapter is brief and in keeping with the essentially practical nature of the book. The complete absence of an index is unfortunate and I hope that this might be corrected in a later edition.

The outstanding feature of the work is the simple line drawings which illustrate it throughout. The only inaccuracies to be found here are in the last two diagrams. One of them shows a misleadingly large anterior tibial artery (a vessel that can be very difficult to locate in the anterior compartment of the leg). The other shows the posterior tibial artery as almost overlying the tendo Achillis rather than behind the medial malleolus. Throughout the book the authors emphasise two important points. First the need for speed in dealing effectively with the traumatised major artery. Second the effect of associated injuries. In five cases where delay was experienced in the presence of multiple injuries all came to amputation. By contrast, in fifteen patients with recent vascular damage and minimal trauma elsewhere early reconstruction was successful in all.

This book will help every surgeon who has to deal with major trauma.—J. F. NEWCOMBE.

Périarthrite de l'épaule/Ostéogénèse et compression/Travaux divers. (Periarthritis of the Shoulder. Osteogenesis and Compression. Miscellaneous Subjects.) Edited by A. BOITZY. With a foreword by M. E. MÜLLER. 23 × 14.5 cm. Pp. 307, with many figures and tables. 1972. Berne: Hans Huber Verlag. Price Sw. fr. 54.

This book is a collection of lectures given at the joint meeting of the French and Swiss Orthopaedic Societies at Berne in May 1971.

The French terms “périarthrite de l'épaule, périarthrite scapulo-humérale, P.S.H.” are used for a large and heterogeneous group of disturbances, mainly related to the rotator cuff, and they are best translated simply by “disorders of the shoulder”. J. Debeyre has linked together a group of lectures