

of the lumbar spine, lay a sound foundation to the abundant information and hypothetical discussion that follow.

Movement of the various elements of the lumbar spine is described in detail as an introduction to the author's well known original work on torsion and compression as associated with disc injury, joint damage and neural arch compression. Small asymmetrical facets and deficient neural arches as in spondylolisthesis or spina bifida give a diminished torque strength and potential rotatory instability. For those interested in the mechanics of the lower spine there is a great deal of valuable and interesting information to digest. There is much here to explain some of the more elusive clinical syndromes arising from the spine. It is a monograph which is bound to be read and reread for its good sense and original observations. It is clearly written, well illustrated and will stimulate further progress in the knowledge of this comparatively poorly understood part of our anatomy.—P. H. NEWMAN.

**Operative Stabilisierung am Handskelett.** (Operative Stabilisation of the Skeleton of the Hand.) By Gottfried SEGMÜLLER. With a foreword by B. G. WEBER. 17 × 24·5 cm. Pp. 170, with 133 figures and 7 tables. Index. 1973. Bern, Stuttgart, Vienna: Verlag Hans Huber. Price Fr 68, DM 61.

A book on internal fixation in hand surgery coming from Dr Segmüller's clinic in St Gallen must *a priori* command interest and respect. One would expect it—as it does—to incorporate all the principles and techniques of the Swiss AO school. This means that here and in the United States it will be judged with a mixture of approval and caution.

Whatever one's views are of compression as a valid tenet of surgical philosophy, using the AO sets of instruments specially selected for the small fragments of hand injuries provides an answer to every problem of hand fractures. The results in acute as well as delayed fractures, in pseudo-arthritis and as a method of fixation with bone grafts, as well as after osteotomy and arthrodesis, are admirable.

Dr Segmüller exhorts his readers to defer obtaining bony union if the three aims of operative treatment cannot be obtained at once, namely restitution of anatomy, provision of a biomechanical basis for function, and immobilisation of the fracture to allow union, because he rightly believes that delay in rehabilitation cannot be remedied. Obtaining the very complex boxes of instruments is for many of us of financial concern, but where any number of hand cases are treated, most of it will be indispensable.—H. J. HAMBURY.

**Pseudarthrosen.** (False Joints.) Pathophysiologie, Biomechanik, Therapie, Ergebnisse. By B. G. WEBER and O. CECH. 21·5 × 29·5 cm. Pp. 327, with 469 figures and 41 tables. Index. 1973. Bern, Stuttgart, Wien: Verlag Hans Huber. Price DM 142.

The title of this book is misleading to foreign readers. It is a textbook on the treatment of non-union of fractures, and true false joint formation is only one aspect of this. Lavishly illustrated and well set out, there are no omissions, but there is also nothing new. Scintigrams of non-union are reproduced in colour, the retention of the intramedullary nail in infected non-union of fractures of the femur is discussed, as is the place of suction drainage and the use of antibiotic lavage. Emphasis is rightly laid on function, and undue haste to obtain union, when a period of freedom from fixation might result in a return of joint movement and a reduction in the final residual disability is recommended.

A wide variety of methods of obtaining compression and fixation of the fracture site by internal and external splintage is illustrated. Non-union of subcapital fractures of the femur comes in for considerable attention. This is now the most complete and up-to-date textbook on non-union and deserves translation into English. If this is done, however, the large number of illustrative cases might be reduced, as they tend to complicate and confuse the clear statement of general principles.—J. G. BONNIN.

**Traumatic Shock: Actual Problems of Diagnostics and Therapy.** Symposium of the Hungarian Traumatological Society. Edited by Gy. SZÁNTÓ, V. HÖNIG and O. SZÉKELY. 17 × 24·5 cm. Pp. 206, with many figures and some tables. 1973. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó. Price £4.

This is a detailed report of a symposium organised by the Hungarian Traumatological Society. It consists of papers and discussions on research, measurements and treatment of the many aspects