population at large. She is also often guilty of giving percentages without clearly stating the numbers upon which they are based, and in some places percentages are quoted for numbers as low as six. Had Miss Dunson given the raw figures and avoided the use of percentages, particularly where these apply to small numbers, the book would have gained in value and statistical clarity.

These few controversial points do not detract in any way from the merits of this report, which is realistic, readable and based on acute observation of a large number of cases. While many will not agree with all the views expressed, Miss Dunson must be congratulated on making a valuable addition to the literature on cerebral palsy. This is a book which should be in the library of everyone interested in this subject.—G. A. Pollock.


"The Social Welfare Review" is a new monthly publication of the Greek Ministry of Social Welfare. The first number contains fourteen essays on the various stages of rehabilitation of the physically disabled. Each article is summarised in English at the end of the journal.

The Minister (at the time of publication) and Mr Goutos outline the programme arranged for the nearly thirty thousand disabled in a country with a population of seven millions, which is recovering from ten years of warfare. Dr Pournaropoulos writes an interesting history of the disabled, which is illustrated. Various authors devote chapters to many of the problems of children and wounded. One essay discusses the State care of the civilian disabled, a very difficult problem in Athens where there is a beggar at every street corner. Dr Harold Balme makes a contribution: and Miss Rachel Collier, an after-care sister who has been in Greece for over two years, writes on physiotherapy.

This publication is welcome in that it shows the effort being made to assist the disabled in a country ruined by wars and fever. The technical and financial assistance given by other countries has been appreciated by the Greek Government, which has dealt in a non-party way with the social problems, in spite of great difficulty. It seems likely that World Health Organisation has cleared the country of the mosquito, so that the scourge of malaria will no longer ruin the physical and mental conditions in Greece. This journal indicates that one social problem is under control, although four years ago it was not understood. The Ministry and Mr Goutos are to be congratulated on their work and the publication of this journal, both of which are an example to small nations.—St J. Dudley Buxton.


I like this book; for, although I may not agree with all the views expressed, that does not mean the views are wrong, and although the book may not be perfect there is in it a quality of perfection. What, after all, is the perfect text-book for the student? It must, I believe, be a book neither so large that he will become confused and lost, nor so small that his sense of proportions will be abused. It must reflect an open mind and yet be stiffened by appropriate authority; so that the student may be intrigued by implied controversy and yet nevertheless gain a foundation of accepted knowledge. Finally—and this is surely the most important—the book must present its contents clearly, that the student will be able to understand, and interestingly, that he may be stimulated to inquire. Now this handbook entirely encompasses the modest objective it has set up; its illustrations are reasonably representative, the legends are realistic and the pattern of the book is clear and extremely practical. It is amazingly comprehensive for its size, and this is achieved by economy of words—always an attractive feature if, as in this instance, clarity is preserved. Also preserved is a balanced outlook, which seems to me the same as a sensible attitude and implies good surgical judgment. For example, take the section on Dupuytren's contracture (page 538). What more could you want? My pet theory perhaps, or yours; but what of it?
Or take the mallet finger (page 540). We might have been told how the term "mallet" arose (Goronwy Thomas is always grumbling that the deformed toe is likened to a hammer and yet the finger to a mallet). And I don't think it would be unreasonable for American printers to drop the word "Roentgenoraphological" in exchange for "radiological." But these are trivialities, in no way detracting from the real solid worth of this excellent handbook, which is sane and safe, just right for the young surgeon. So, as I say, I like this book.—Bryan McFarland.


Recent interest in his "Pathology of Tumours" and "Principles of Pathology" has given Professor R. A. Willis the opportunity of preparing a second edition of his earlier book "The Spread of Tumours in the Human Body." In its first edition, published in 1934, this work was a monograph of the Baker Institute for Medical Research of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, where its author was Pathologist for fifteen years. At that time the spread of tumours was a subject of some mystery, being little understood by many of those who dealt with cancer patients. To-day, largely because of Willis's work, the subject is less controversial, and both clinicians and pathologists are much more aware of its bearing on the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The second edition comes from Leeds where Professor Willis now has charge of the University department of pathology, and its appearance establishes the book as the standard presentation of the subject. The "Spread of Tumours" is based on an analysis of the author's 500 consecutive cancer necropsies. It defines and fully describes the metastasis of tumours, discussing the anatomical pathways (lymphatics, bloodstream, serous cavities, etc.) by which dissemination can occur, and gives an account of the varied ways in which metastatic tumours can produce signs and symptoms. Particular stress is laid on the "latent primary," a study of metastasis revealing how frequently, and not the primary tumour from which they have arisen, are responsible for the presenting manifestations of malignant disease.

Those concerned in orthopaedics will be particularly interested in the sections discussing metastatic tumours of bone. Evidence regarding their frequency and distribution is presented, and an important section leads to the conclusion that these tumours invariably reach the skeleton by blood-stream dissemination. The nature of "Ewing's tumour"—a subject on which Willis has contributed a number of critical papers—is discussed: the role of metastasis, either from neuroblastoma or carcinoma, in producing the "syndrome" is stressed, Willis's view being that few of the tumours to which this name is attached are primary in bone. But, quite apart from its bearing on the understanding of bone tumours, the book should be read because of its outstanding interest as a general outline of the pathology of tumour spread. Chapters such as "Metastasis by the blood-stream," "The cancerous thoracic duct," "Transcoelomic metastasis," "Latent primary tumours," and "Secondary tumours of the liver," are gems. Accurate, informative and clearly written, the book is always stimulating, and has needed surprisingly little addition or alteration after nearly twenty years.—H. A. Sissons.


This book has a wide circulation, especially amongst chiropodists, and it is therefore important that it should be authoritative. Many of the subjects dealt with are difficult and controversial, and, even though Mr Lake has not taken into account the latest work on joint and on the physiology of muscle, he does make a determined attempt to present some of the newer views about posture; but it is somewhat vitiated by his unwillingness to surrender his allegiance to the older ideas and this at times makes his argument rather difficult to follow. The descriptions of the straightforward disabilities of the foot are clear and accurate and should be of value to both surgeon and medical auxiliary, but the accounts of the more controversial subjects might well mislead those who have not made a special study of the problems.—Philip Wiles.