
This book is, in the words of its editor, "a compilation of many lectures prepared by thirty-five different authors." It presents in written form the material of a postgraduate course given annually by the Cornell University Medical College, and the list of contributors is impressive. Every aspect of trauma is included—there is even a chapter on the treatment of mass casualties—and it is perhaps for this reason that the book falls short of the ideal. Inevitably, there is some repetition, and the standard of presentation is a little uneven. It may well be argued that so large a subject should not be dealt with in one volume, and it is certainly odd, for example, that the Colles fracture should receive thirty-four pages of attention, little less than that devoted to injuries of the abdomen and urogenital system. The criticism of an "omnibus" volume is that no one aspect of the problem can be fully dealt with, and in this book insufficient practical detail is included in some instances to make it as a whole a comprehensive work of reference. As a piece of entertaining reading for those interested or engaged in the treatment of accidents, however, it is admirable. Comparisons are odious, but the chapters on burns and on reconstructive procedures on the soft tissues are particularly attractive, and it is very good to see the question of full-thickness flap grafting given due attention. The editor himself has been responsible for some of the best chapters on fracture treatment, and, although the emphasis on metallic fixation is not in accord with British practice, there is much valuable instruction in this field. The book is profusely and well illustrated, and, as one would expect, excellently produced.
—E. Mervyn Evans.


This is the fourth volume of the monumental work being compiled by a large number of leading German orthopaedic surgeons.

This volume is mainly concerned with the hip and contains some notable works on the subject. Of particular note are the two studies by Professor Hackenbroch on the mechanics of the hip and on osteoarthritis. I have found the latter excellent and I would recommend it to all those who may still consider that orthopaedic surgery is nothing more than a glorified aseptic carpentry. The contribution of more than one hundred pages that Dr. K. F. Schlegel dedicates to congenital dislocation of the hip is notable. The chapter is so well documented that its bibliography covers over twelve pages of closely packed references, many of which are of Anglo-Saxon works. Osteochondritis, infections, trauma and tumours of the hip region complete, with some more rare conditions, the material included in this, the largest part of the volume. Its last section deals with disorders of the femur and knee joint in chapters that are more concise but not without interest, particularly that on the knee joint by Dr. Von O. Boos.

Going through the well printed pages of this book I have often regretted that the author has kept his personal views so much to himself that the reader may be unable to detect them. While this seems objective and thus wise in general, the young trainee must be left at a loss on too many occasions about the relative importance of the factors involved. Despite this criticism, which cannot be applied to all the chapters, this work continues to be an outstanding contribution to orthopaedics whose influence is likely to spread outside the confines of Germany.—Joseph Trueta.


This monograph from the Orthopaedic Hospital of the Invalid Foundation in Helsinki reviews the experience of the treatment of feet affected by poliomyelitis over the years 1943 to 1955.
The author first gives an excellent review of the historical development of stabilisation procedures and tendon transfers in the treatment of paralytic foot deformities. There follows an account of the pathogenesis of these deformities. The author's view that pes cavus is due to intrinsic weakness would not be universally accepted.

The main part of the work is a clinical review of 211 feet operated on by twenty-five different surgeons, under the general direction of the late Professor F. Langenskiöld. The majority were treated by a combination of triple arthrodesis and tendon transfer. The results were assessed by personal observation in 147 cases and on replies to a questionnaire in the remainder. Over the whole series 67.8 per cent of feet showed improvement; in the author's view 70.6 per cent of the failures were due to avoidable faults. The proportion of failures was highest among the feet with varus and equino-varus deformities, and lowest in those treated by Lambriniudi's drop-foot operation.

The main positive value of tendon transfer was seen in cases of equinus and equino-valgus deformity, where transfer of the peronei to the dorsum gave a useful power of active dorsiflexion in many cases. The negative virtue of preventing recurrent deformity was not clearly demonstrated. In only two cases was an undesirable effect of the tendon transfer noted.

One of the largest single causes of failure was non-union. Although the author does not think so, one wonders whether this can be attributed to the policy of doing the triple arthrodesis and the tendon transfer at the same operation.

This review is believed to be the only one of a large series of combined stabilisation and tendon transfer operations, and as such is of great importance to all who are interested in the problem of paralytic foot deformities.—Michael Pilcher.


Dr Warren's book is an expansion of an outline prepared some time ago for the guidance of his Residents and contains, besides some instructional material, matters relating to policy, informational items, and "some sermonising" as he says.

He defines his field of vascular surgery as one where the surgeon performs intrathoracic, extracardiac vascular procedures and peripheral ones, but leaves cardiac surgery to another. The author describes only one method for each procedure without claiming its superiority but because he has found it effective.

The book might be divided into three—arterial operations, amputations and venous operations. Thirty-one operations are described. Each is made apparently simple by beautiful line and wash diagrams which must be extremely useful to the young operator. The letterpress is adequate without useless padding. The objective, the indications and contra-indications, the planning, the operation and after-treatment are written up in a few lines. The reviewer has nostalgic memories of the first lesion described—a co-arctation of the aorta. It is interesting to see the continual advances that are made in these operations, particularly newer methods by artificial replacements to restore continuity.

The section on amputations is well done, but it is interesting to see that Syme's amputation is not carried out as Syme did it, though it is good that the importance of retaining the position of the heel flap is emphasised. In amputating at the thigh the deep fascia is sutured but not the muscles, though current thought, especially of limb-makers, is that the extensors and flexors should be stitched to each other. There is a good section on early walking after amputation. The author recommends walking by the eighteenth day. It must be a shock for British limb-makers to read—"10th day: Temporary artificial limb arrives."

This is a well produced volume and as far as it goes will be of great use. The drawings are most instructive.—Walter Mercer.


The seventeenth volume of Clinical Orthopaedics has just been published. The book is designed for the publication of original articles offering significant contributions to the advancement of surgery. This issue is published as part of the celebration of the seventy-second birthday of Franklin Chambers McLean and the contributors are all associates or pupils of his, working on the frontiers of the field of bone.