
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 too 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.