reacting to changes in environment, and its own diseases. And it is even kinder than other tissues in its response to injury since it has the unique property of healing without leaving so much as a scar. Surgeons engaged in problems of carpentering and engineering may forget the true nature of bone and fail to give due attention to its physiology and pathology. Here is a book no one of us can afford to neglect. A pathologist and an anatomist have co-operated to show us what bone is, how it grows, and how it behaves in health and disease. They clear away much dead wood from the tangled undergrowth of conventional teaching and make a clean start with proper emphasis on the confusion resulting from the dual meaning of the word bone—bone as a structure and bone as a tissue: the tibiae are bones and are made of bone.

The book is notable for clarity of thought and expression. The development of bone is followed through all its stages, and the diseases and deformities of both bone and bones are classified and explained in such a way as to correlate the clinical with the biological features. It is equally lucid whether discussing developmental deformities, adaptational deformities, the influence of endocrines and vitamins, tumours, the healing of fractures, or inflammation. The authors freely admit they make use of working hypotheses to provide a logical sequence when existing data are uncertain or insufficient. This practice has many advantages but it is not always made clear when it is being followed, and a reader not familiar with current research might be misled by the authoritative presentation. For example, osteoblasts and osteoclasts are accepted without comment as makers and destroyers of bone although this is by no means certain and some leading bone pathologists consider both to be destructive agents. But this is a minor defect in an outstanding work, and anyone who makes himself master of its content must be the better surgeon for doing so.—PHILIP WILES.

BRITISH SURGICAL PRACTICE. Edited by Sir Ernest Rock CARLING, Consulting Surgeon, Westminster Hospital, and J. Paterson Ross, Surgeon and Director of Surgical Clinical Unit, St Bartholomew's Hospital, Professor of Surgery, London University. In eight volumes, Volume I, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp., xxix+486, with 228 figures and 2 plates. Index. 1947. London: Butterworth & Co., Ltd. Price £3, or £25 for set of eight volumes including general index.

This volume is the first of eight which are to form a surgical companion to the "British Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice." Volume I comprises the subjects "abdominal emergencies" to "arteries." One is reminded of the wide range of subjects having some interest for the orthopaedic surgeon by the titles abscess, actinomycosis, adiposity, amyloid infiltration, anaesthesia, angioma, anxiety states, arteries, asepsis, antisepsis, and the autonomic nervous system. The subjects in this volume with an immediate orthopaedic concern are after-care, amputation, arthritis, artificial limbs, and asymmetry. It is an encouraging sign of the times that the subject of "after-care" comprises not only an introduction by so active a restorer as Dr F. S. Cooksey, but monographs on: post-operative care; the place of massage, remedial and occupational therapy and rehabilitation; and the phase of return home—the last, full of wisdom, by a physician. The monograph on amputations is confined to the major ones. It comes from the clear, logical mind and ready pen of Mr George Perkins, and it expresses the pre-war Roehampton faith superlatively well. The devotees of that faith pursue a straight and narrow path. There is nothing in this monograph to suggest that the vast opportunities sadly provided by another war have led them to stray from their well-worn track, but possibly this article exaggerates their constancy. By alphabetical good fortune the monograph on artificial limbs appears in the same volume. Dr Kelham has wisely refrained from mechanical details and has concentrated on the preparation of the patient and his stump for the fitting of the limb and on his training in the use of this, so that this article is a valuable supplement to those specifically on after-care. One suspects that pylons would receive little favour but for the cruel and uneconomic delay which still characterises the supply and readjustment of artificial limbs. Mr Norman Capener has written the monograph on surgical considerations in arthritis, which is practically confined to osteo-arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. He has our sympathy in tackling this very difficult subject. Cup arthroplasty of the hip is mentioned to the exclusion of Batchelor's procedure for a similar purpose. A monograph on the large subject of asymmetry is too condensed to be of much practical value.

The volume is extremely well produced in every way. It is not meant primarily for the undergraduate student or for the expert, but caters especially for the many surgeons whose life work is remote from libraries and centres of teaching and research. The first volume gives good promise that this end will be achieved.—H. JACKSON BURROWS.

DIE SKELETTVARIETÄTEN DES FUSSES: IHRE KLINISCHE UND UNFALLMEDIZINISCHE BEDEUTUNG. By Theo MARTI, Spezialarzt für Chirurgie F.M.H. $9 \times 6\frac{1}{4}$ in. Pp., 164, with 58 figures. 1947. Bern: Hans Huber. Fr. 14.20. Paper cover.

The literature of the twenty varieties of accessory tarsal ossicles in adults is reviewed, with a bibliography, and considered in the light of ninety-nine personal cases. Developmental synostoses are also