Book Reviews

BRITISH JOURNAL OF PLASTIC SURGERY. Edited by A. B. WALLACE, M.Sc., F.R.C.S. (Edin.). Appearing quarterly, Volume I, No. 1, 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp. viii+72, with many figures. 1948. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. Price 12/6 single issue, or £2, 2/- annual subscription.

Plastic surgery was born in the first World War and it reached true maturity in the second. It has thoroughly justified itself. This war has not only produced great advances in both plastic surgery and orthopaedics, but it has linked them closely and fruitfully. Each has been stimulated and improved by the other, to their common great advantage and advancement. Consequently the inception of the British Journal of Plastic Surgery may be considered a major event in orthopaedics as well as a welcome symbol of the advance of plastic surgery. The distinguished editor and board, and the contributors and the publishers are to be congratulated on an excellent first number. Some of the articles have no special interest for orthopaedic surgeons, but there are very good contributions on lymphoedema by Rainsford Mowlem, pollicisation of the index finger by James B. Cuthbert and F. T. Moore, and construction of the web in syndactyly by Michael C. Oldfield.—H. JACKSON BURROWS.

FIG. 5.

(Page 58.)

FIG. 6.

Final condition (after pollicisation of index finger).

PATHOLOGY OF TUMOURS. By R. A. WILLIS, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P., Sir William H. COLLINS Professor of Human and Comparative Pathology, Royal College of Surgeons, London. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 7 in. Pp. xxiii+992, with 500 figures. Index. 1948. London: Butterworth & Co., Ltd. Price 63/-, plus 1/6 postage.

The issue of this new book is opportune and notable. For many years the chief work of reference on this subject has been Ewing's "Neoplastic Diseases." But Ewing is now dead and the last edition of his book was published in 1940. Though the latter will continue to be used, this newer work will probably be consulted more frequently alongside the microscope, because it is designed particularly to give diagnostic help with the more subtle tumours. The author has imparted to it his own individual outlook, illustrating it throughout from his own extensive experience. Those already familiar with his earlier work "The Spread of Tumours in the Human Body" (1934) will recall his wide grasp of the literature, the fine balance of his judgment, and commonsense attitude towards various controversial matters: they will know what to expect in this larger work and they will not be disappointed. To some he will appear over-dogmatic in his interpretation of such arguable topics as Ewing's tumour of the bones, and his refusal to entertain the existence of the primary endotheliomata of serous membranes. But his dogmatism is always

founded upon reason, and in such matters his treatment has the merit of being provocative and it affords more interesting reading than an inconclusive statement of pros and cons.

The first part of the book gives a general account of tumours and their habits along similar lines to that of "Ewing"; the remainder is devoted to the features of tumours in special sites. The whole is lavishly and excellently illustrated, again with an eye to the portrayal of the more problematical tumours. The text is amplified with brief notes of cases seen by the author, and a novel and acceptable feature is the addition of short sections in each chapter on the occurrence of analogous tumours in the lower animals.

A bibliography ends each chapter, and here too the author helps by indicating the articles that he considers most useful. For a work of this size, the text and references are astonishingly up-to-date: a tribute both to the author and, in these difficult days, the publisher. Altogether this may be judged a sane, eminently readable and informative work which will prove of immense value both in the laboratory and library.—Dorothy S. RUSSELL.

HANDBOOK ON FRACTURES. By Duncan EVE, Jun., M.D., F.A.C.S. 9×6½ in. Pp. xi+263, with 129 figures. Index. 1947. London: Henry Kimpton. Price 25/-.

This well written book enunciates clearly and soundly the modern principles of treatment of fractures. It does not include dislocations. It is intended mainly for senior students and junior house-staff, and not for surgeons who specialise in accident work. Fig. 6 conveys the impression that crutches are usual when walking in a plaster cast. The use of penicillin in the management of early secondary suture of compound fractures is not mentioned, but the general principles of their treatment are discussed soundly. Often the descriptions are insufficiently precise; for instance that dealing with the treatment of a Bennett's fracture would not enable the reader to treat the majority of such fractures successfully. Many of the reproductions of radiographs are so dark that details are obscured.—L. W. PLEWES.

DEMONSTRATIONS OF PHYSICAL SIGNS IN CLINICAL SURGERY. By Hamilton BAILEY, F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., F.R.S.E., Surgeon, Royal Northern Hospital, London. Eleventh edition. In four parts, Part I, 8½×5½ in. Pp. xii+100, with 178 figures, many in colour. 1948. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd. Price 8/6 each part. Paper cover.

This book, written by one of the greatest of our surgical teachers, must be a "best seller." It has reached an eleventh edition; it has appeared in German, Turkish, Spanish, and Bulgarian; and it is about to appear in other languages. The author liberally acknowledges help from both sides of the Atlantic. Impatient of present difficulties and delays, he is producing this edition in four parts, of which the first has now appeared. Such an expedient is not entirely satisfactory; for instance, this part contains a chapter on "Some general principles in the examination of joints," but we must await a future part for the detailed examination of individual joints. We deplore, with the author, that "medical students' text-books" (and indeed most educational, scientific, and medical works) "have in the main to take their turn in delivery of paper from the mills, printing, and binding, with manuals on greyhound racing, and 'How to Play Poker.'" Another difficulty has been the production of colour blocks. Though many are first class, others are out of register; but on the whole the illustrations are excellent and are commendably numerous. The text is clear, concise, and easy.—H. JACKSON BURROWS.

FIG. 48. Page 32.

A case of Charcot's knee. Spontaneous dislocation has occurred. There is also a large perforating ulcer of the foot which is covered by the dressing.