the complete radiological picture of a disease, so that continuity of reading is difficult. This must be expected however in a reference book, and it is as such that this book should be a best seller. The author is to be congratulated on a monumental work likely to become a universal classic, and the publishers are to be congratulated on the manner of its production. The first edition showed signs of teething troubles: the present shows maturity.—P. H. WHITAKER.

A ESCAPULECTOMIA TOTAL PAROSTAL NOS NEOPLASMAS PRIMITIVOS DA OMOPLATA. By Fernando Ellis RIBEIRO. 10×7 in. Pp. 216, with 85 figures. Index. 1947. Rio de Janeiro. Paper cover.

This monograph on scapulectomy for the treatment of primary neoplasms of the shoulder blade provides information previously distributed in many volumes. Every aspect of the scapula, normal and pathological, is considered, and constant reference is made to work of numerous investigators. There are sections on embryological development illustrated with original microphotographs, on histology and centres of ossification. Pages 31 to 110 describe the scapula and its articular connections, muscles, blood vessels and lymphatics on the familiar lines of any anatomical text-book, but also include fine points of difference found by anatomists and anthropologists. These sections, which contain no new observations, are illustrated with photographs of finely executed original dissections, and with line-drawings and diagrams from German works illustrating muscular action. They are followed by a brief historical section, in which there is an excellent review of early cases and more recent experience. It is, however, incorrect to state that Ralph Cuming (not Cumming) excised part of the scapula in 1808. This remarkable young surgeon performed in that year the first forequarter amputation. Dr Ribeiro should give the priority for subtotal excision of the scapula to James Luke of the London Hospital and the date as October 1828 (LUKE, J., 1829: London Medical Gazette, 5, 235).

Pages 117 to 131 are concerned with the technique of excision of the scapula, based on actual cases, dissections and an animal experiment, and illustrated with eleven beautiful drawings of each stage. This is the best section of the work. The stages themselves, from boomerang incision to final drainage, are clearly described in fifteen numbered paragraphs. Then is included a section on variations in the standard technique, as used by leading exponents and including some in which portions of the clavicle or humerus are removed. The author here describes his own successful experiment with one of these techniques, using *Cebus Apella* as a subject; this he illustrates with twenty-eight photographs. Mortality statistics from many authorities are quoted, but without reference to the author's own experience. He does, however, state that in his cases there has been little shock, and that functional results except for writing have been excellent. The closing sections deal with indications for using this conservative operation as opposed to the mutilating operation of Paul Berger, a classification of tumours affecting the scapula, and a brief statistical analysis of their incidence; there is a concluding section on diagnosis. The book is the fruit of immense industry and may fulfil the author's aim if this was to provide an abstract of all the relevant literature that was available to him. It is not, however, possible to come to any conclusion at the end of it, and the absence of criticism or comment, together with the difficulty of deciding when the author is referring to his own work, and when to that of others, increases the problem of deciding what his own views on any point may be. His bibliography is curiously incomplete; thus Berger's classic work is omitted. Dr Ribeiro has been ill-served by his anonymous publisher and has himself drawn attention to some 120 errata. Not even this list is complete.—J. J. KEEVIL.

THE BRITISH ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MEDICAL PRACTICE, *including Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics, Gynaecology, and other special subjects* MEDICAL PROGRESS, 1948. Editor in Chief, Rt Hon. Lord HORDER, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P. 9½×6½ in. Pp. v+511+(28), with 5 figures. Index. 1948. London: Butterworth & Co., Ltd.

"Medical Progress, 1948," is a rather misleading title. The work is a supplement to the British Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice, bringing this up to the beginning of 1948, and is composed of critical surveys (which do not include orthopaedics), recent pharmacological and therapeutic developments, and abstracts. These comprise the greater part of the book and are arranged alphabetically. That on bone diseases is particularly good. Other subjects of orthopaedic interest include joint diseases, poliomyelitis, various endocrine, nutritional and vascular disorders, and so on. The wide scope of the volume implies rather sketchy treatment of individual subjects and a limited value for specialists.—H. JACKSON BURROWS.