ACIK KIRIKLAR VE KOMPLIKASYONLARI: TESHIS VE TEDAVILERI. (THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF OPEN BONE FRACTURES AND THEIR COMPLICATIONS.) By Derviş MANIZADE. $9\frac{1}{4} \times 7$ in. Pp. xv+244, with 89 figures, four in colour. 1948. Istanbul: Kenan Matbaası. Paper cover.

We review here the thirty-page summary, written in excellent English, which concludes this monograph epitomising modern practice in the treatment of open fractures. The work contains little that is new, but it is well arranged and clearly written. The clinical classification is good and there is special emphasis on the treatment of the whole patient, and particularly the treatment of shock and such complications as fat embolism. James Latta's original description of shock in 1795 is quoted as "collapse of blood circulation caused by severe injury," a remarkably brief and correct summing up of a condition that almost defies definition. Local anaesthesia with little or no adrenalin is used most frequently. Wide excision of the wound is insisted upon, with avoidance of the insertion of foreign bodies, even ligatures so far as they can be avoided. Scarcity of penicillin in Turkey has obliged the author to supplement his limited experience of its use by the results of others. Wounds are preferably left exposed and the limb is elevated. In relieving pain the author rightly insists upon the avoidance of technical faults such as unsuitable posture of the limb, but he is perhaps too unwilling to make use of analgesics. He stresses the importance of minerals and vitamins in the diet but makes no mention of other factors such as proteins, which are of great importance in the injured. This work comes from the First Surgical Clinic of the University of Istanbul. We should like to see more surgical material from Turkey, with good English summaries as in the present instance, because it would help us to keep in touch with the work of our friends in that country.—H. JACKSON BURROWS.

A SYNOPSIS OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY. By A. David LE VAY, M.S., F.R.C.S., Honorary Orthopaedic Surgeon, Woolwich Memorial Hospital. 9×7 in. Pp. vii+242, with 55 figures. Index. 1947. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. Price 15/-.

This little book, as Le Vay describes it, will not prove of great interest to readers of the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. It is intended to be no more than a "concise factual survey of orthopaedic surgery for the use of senior undergraduates and possibly of post-graduate students working for higher qualifications." We may all regard ourselves as "senior undergraduates," but it is likely that we shall be more attracted to reading in the wider fields of those authorities to whom Le Vay pays acknowledgment.

The post-graduate, working for a higher qualification in surgery, may find this book useful in the final frantic hours before the day of examination, but it will not gain for him a sound and balanced appreciation of orthopaedic surgery. It has always been difficult to define "orthopaedics" and it has often been impossible to limit the field of orthopaedic surgery; but surely we are concerned with a special craftsmanship, dealing with various pathological conditions that affect the locomotor system. Le Vay assumes in his reader a knowledge of the principles of orthopaedic treatment which the student does not possess. A good deal of the space that he devotes to descriptive pathology and differential diagnosis could better be used for subjects he omits: for instance, some discussion of the types of deformity and the reasons why they arise; the principles of splinting, including the use of appliances and plaster-of-Paris; and the principles of physiotherapy, especially muscle re-education in all its aspects. There is no composite description or discussion of such common orthopaedic procedures as tendon transplantation, osteotomy, or arthrodesis. There is no section at all on the use of bone as a graft.

Those of us who are concerned with teaching are often asked to recommend a short descriptive work on orthopaedic surgery. Le Vay is to be congratulated on his attempt to satisfy the needs of the student, but unfortunately he has not wholly achieved his aim.—W. D. COLTART.

Editorial note—In British numbers of the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*, no reviews of books are published under the cloak of anonymity and honesty of opinion is assured thereby. But it would be curious if there was never difference of opinion. The opinion of at least two members of the Editorial Board as to the merit of Le Vay's "Synopsis of Orthopaedic Surgery" appears to differ from that of Mr Coltart. The comment of the sub-editor is: "The Synopsis is remarkably up to date and comprehensive for its size, and it will surely be of much value to students, both undergraduate and post-graduate." We trust therefore that Mr Le Vay will take note of our critical comments, but will not be unduly discouraged.

ANAESTHESIA FOR THE POOR RISK, and Other Essays. By William W. MUSHIN, M.A. (Oxon.), M.B., F.F.A., D.A., Director, Department of Anaesthetics, Welsh National School of Medicine, Cardiff; formerly First Assistant, Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics, University of Oxford. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp. ix+65. 1948. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, Ltd. Price 7/6. (This volume will be included as No. 49 in the American Lecture Series.)

This is a collection of twenty-eight essays on various subjects—mostly controversial—connected with anaesthesia. The reader is unlikely to agree with all that the author says but he will appreciate the

arguments and will enjoy the attractive style of writing. Many fallacies are exposed, such as the desirability of employing spinal block in shocked patients, the belief that all anaesthetic convulsions are due to ether, and the view that dissolving local analgesics in oil is a scientific way of prolonging their effect. The book can be read through at one sitting and it is a welcome and unusual addition to the literature of anaesthetics.—C. Langton HEWER.

LA DENUTRITION DE GUERRE: ÉTUDE CLINIQUE, ANATOMO-PATHOLOGIQUE ET THÉRAPEUTIQUE. By Ed. F. SIMONART. 10¼×7 in. Pp. 262, with 40 figures. 1948. Brussels: Acta Medica Belgica. Paris: Maloine. Paper cover.

Simonart studied the effects of prolonged undernutrition on the inmates of a civil prison at Louvain during the German occupation of Belgium. The daily ration was approximately 1400–1500 calories. Fat and protein formed only a small part of the diet. The main locomotor disturbances that he observed were muscular weakness and neurological disorders reminiscent of beri-beri. He showed that the weakness of muscles was due in part to loss of muscle substance and in part to deficiency of vitamin B₁; muscle power was increased by the intravenous administration of this vitamin. Biochemical evidence was obtained which supported his conclusion that deficiency of vitamin B₁ was the essential cause of the neurological findings. It is surprising that in such a population he found no evidence of skeletal changes: in similar patients other workers have shown radiographic evidence of osteoporosis (Brull, L., 1945: *Les états de carence en Belgique*. Liege: Editions Soledi; and Hottinger, A., Gsell, O., Uehlinger, E.; Salzman, C., and Labhart, A., 1948: *Hungerkrankheit, hungerödem, hungertuberkulose*. Basel: Benno Schwabe & Co. New York: Grune & Stratton, Inc.). Demineralisation in such cases was almost entirely confined to males over the age of fifty years.—John BEATTIE.

FRACTURES AND ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY FOR NURSES AND MASSEUSES. By Arthur NAYLOR, Ch.M., M.B., M.Sc. (Sheff.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.S. (Edin.). Honorary Orthopaedic Surgeon, Bradford Royal Infirmary and Bradford Children's Hospital; Orthopaedic Surgeon, Bradford Municipal General (St Luke's) Hospital and Bradford Education Committee; Temp. Major, Orthopaedic Specialist, R.A.M.C. Second Edition. 8¼×5½ in. Pp. xiv+236, with 251 figures. Index. 1948. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. Price 17/6.

Specialisation in medicine and surgery is so well established in our age, and indeed so essential, that it is inevitable that it should permeate the professions of nursing and physiotherapy. It is important, therefore, that specialist text-books for nurses and physiotherapists should be produced, and so far as orthopaedic and traumatic surgery is concerned the author of this book has carried out his task well. The second edition maintains its high standard, but it is a pity that in revising it the author did not take the opportunity to improve several illustrations, particularly those of splints, and indeed to eliminate some of the text describing them. On page 21 the almost obsolete Thomas' hip splint is reproduced as in text-books and catalogues of the last century, together with a half-page paragraph which is introduced by way of acknowledgment of its almost complete obsolescence. Elsewhere, splints that are almost entirely discarded are illustrated by reproductions from instrument makers' catalogues. The opportunity might also have been taken to bring the title up to date. Apart from these criticisms, which are almost entirely confined to the descriptions of apparatus, the book is of a high standard in both text and illustrations, and it should be of value both to nurses and physiotherapists, particularly when taken in conjunction with their practical work.—John A. CHOLMELEY.