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.