attention is drawn to Habermann's type of suction socket, two advances which are attracting attention in England to-day.

This book is well printed on good paper and the particular subjects mentioned in this review should be studied by orthopaedic surgeons and those who fit prostheses. The bibliography does not include the publications in our language since 1925.—St. J. D. BUXTON.

MUSCLES: TESTING AND FUNCTION. By Henry O. KENDALL and Florence P. KENDALL, Physical Therapy Department, Children's Hospital School, Baltimore, Maryland. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ in. Pp. xi+278, with 162 figures. Appendix and Index. 1949. Baltimore: The Williams Wilkins Company. Price \$7.50.

The standardisation of a system of muscle grading by the Medical Research Council in 1943 made a valuable contribution to clinical research. In poliomyelitis, as in many other neurological disorders, the accurate assessing and precise recording of muscle power are essential in order to follow progress and control treatment.

In this monograph two physiotherapists draw upon the experience of twenty-five years gained

A line-drawing and a photograph to illustrate abductor pollicis brevis. (Figures 9 and 10, reproduced here about half-size.)

in the Children's Hospital School in Baltimore. The first chapters deal with the principles of manual muscle testing and their own particular method of grading muscle power; the strength of a muscle is recorded as one of twelve grades, expressed as a percentage. To the reader in this country this classification will appear unnecessarily elaborate and divorced from reality; moreover, in an epidemic of poliomyelitis where many cases have to be examined such a complex system would be impracticable. It is doubtful whether in experienced hands the more simple 0 to 5 system is any less precise, especially as intermediate grades can be expressed by the addition of a plus or minus sign if necessary. The Kendalls employ specific charts for recording muscle power in cases of poliomyelitis and nerve injuries, but the latter charts include a host of neurological information which is hardly necessary for everyday use; a chart which can be used for all types of lower motor neurone lesions is obviously preferable. In the later chapters a series of superb photographs and diagrams illustrate the methods employed for testing individual muscles and the description is probably the most comprehensive that has yet appeared in print.

The production is first-class and these criticisms are not intended to detract in any way from a work which serves to focus attention on an important but often neglected aspect of orthopaedics. The monograph will make an instant appeal to clinician and physiotherapist alike.—Donal M. BROOKS.