and often a difficult problem, and the subject is here dealt with in a full and satisfactory manner; the results described are very good.

Some of the later chapters are on the subjects of anaesthesia and shock—subjects which affect all orthopaedic work but are not always included even in books purporting to survey the whole field of orthopaedic surgery. They are thoughtfully written, and are a reminder that with the advent of more and more, and bigger and bigger, orthopaedic surgical undertakings, sight must not be lost of the effect on the condition of the patient as a whole. There are also chapters on restoration of function and rehabilitation.

The book is produced as a handy paper-backed volume that can be slipped easily into the pocket. The line drawings are admirable, the radiographic reproductions suffer their usual fate, whilst the picture illustrations clearly convey what is intended. The book should be read by all seriously interested in the surgical problems of orthopaedic surgery.—R. BROOMHEAD.

JOHN HUNTER. By S. Roodhouse GLOYNE, M.D. (Leeds), Consulting Pathologist, London Chest Hospital and King Edward VII Sanatorium, Midhurst. $9 \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp. x+104, with 16 figures and colour frontispiece. Index. 1950. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Price 15s.

Of all the men in our island who have taken a part in the extension of our knowledge of Medicine and of Biology, there is none with a life history which equals John Hunter's in interest, in unexpectedness, in bewilderment and in originality. His story has been told by several authors but by none better than Dr S. R. Gloyne in the fifty thousand words of this book. He has had no new source of information at his disposal but he has used the material accumulated by former biographers so as to tell a more continuous story than has been told before. His portrait gives us the conventional John Hunter—a man of defective education struggling to express ideas beyond the reach of his vocabulary. Of Hunter's "Treatise on the Blood, Inflammation and Gun-shot Wounds," the author passes this judgment: "On the whole it is not one of Hunter's best efforts and suffers from his dislike of definitions." He regards "the new operation which Hunter devised for the cure of popliteal aneurysm" as his "greatest contribution to surgery."

I devoted a good few years to the accumulation of materials for a life of Hunter. A few of my chapters have appeared in print. What was to be the opening chapter—"The Cradle of the Hunterian School"—appeared in a work commemorating Sir William Osler's seventieth birthday (1919); the materials to be employed in two other chapters on Hunter as an orthopaedic surgeon—his observations on the action of muscles and on the behaviour of living bone—were incorporated in "Menders of the Maimed" (1919). There were to be chapters on Hunter as a physiologist, as a botanist, as a zoologist, as a psychologist, as a pathologist, etc. Why did I abandon the project? My chief reason was that I failed to enlist the interest of the rising generation; they did not want to know what was being discovered in the eighteenth century but what was on foot in the medical world of the twentieth century and for this I did not blame them. But there was another reason—the materials at my disposal were those which were available to those that came after me. The four volumes of "The Works of John Hunter," edited by James F. Palmer (1837), is the quarry from which every biographer must draw his material and that quarry remains available to every generation. The other great quarry which I had always regarded as a permanency, the Hunterian collections, preserved in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, was mangled by a German bomb; but, thanks to the devotion of Professor F. Wood Jones, many of the best Hunterian records are again on the shelves of the Museum. No one has possessed the perfect technique with which Hunter filled his shelves with specimens; he would have the best whatever the cost might be in labour or in money. Even when it came to choosing a wife he selected one of the most accomplished and most beautiful women of his time.—Arthur KEITH.

LES MALFORMATIONS DU NOUVEAU-NÉ CAUSÉES PAR LES VIROSES DE LA GROSSESSE ET PLUS PARTICULIÈREMENT PAR LA RUBÉOLE (Embryopathie Rubéoleuse). By Jean B. BOURQUIN. Preface by Professeur A. FRANCESCHETTI. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ in. Pp. iv+146, with 52 figures and 8 tables. 1948. Paris: Librairie E. Le François. Price not quoted.

This is a monograph on the abnormalities found in children whose mothers had contracted German measles at significant times before the births of the babies. The author has had a varied personal experience of this problem, and he reviews the literature apparently thoroughly.

There is little here to interest the orthopaedic surgeon as such. Most of the defects discovered

are to be found in the eye. There is an incidence of flat feet, club feet, fragilitas ossium and congenital dislocation of the hip which would not appear to be any greater than that in the general population. Though the significance of this work is enormous, its practical application to the deformities of the limbs and of the spine is not yet apparent.—D. Ll. GRIFFITHS.

FUSS UND BEIN: IHRE ERKRANKUNGEN UND DEREN BEHANDLUNG. By Georg HOHMANN, Direktor der Orthopädischen Universitätsklinik München. Fourth edition. 10×7 in. Pp. vii+504, with 451 figures. Index. 1948. München: J. F. Bergmann. Price 39 D.M.

HAND UND ARM: IHRE ERKRANKUNGEN UND DEREN BEHANDLUNG. By Georg HOHMANN, Direktor der Orthopädischen Universitätsklinik und Orthopädischen Klinik München. 10×7 in. Pp. viii+271, with 199 figures. Index. 1949. München: J. F. Bergmann. Price 24 D.M.

Fuss und Bein is the fourth edition of a work of which much of the original material was destroyed during the war. For this reason and perhaps for other circumstances of the post-war era, there is little discussion of recent developments in orthopaedic practice. Indeed, inspection of the ample bibliography reveals almost no reference to work of the past ten years. Conspicuously deficient is reference to British and American work. We are, therefore, provided with a valuable review of German orthopaedic practice in the leg and foot. Dr Hohmann's style is rather discursive but he has produced a useful teaching manual for the post-graduate student. Particularly good is his discussion of anatomical and physiological backgrounds, of investigative methods and operative indications. Yet it is strange that in his 500 pages, although there is room to touch upon a very few of the problems of the hip region, there is practically no mention of such lesions below the knee as osteomyelitis, tuberculosis, neoplasms, fractures, congenital pseudarthrosis of the tibia, nor of amputations. There is, however, a valuable account of von Bayer's "Synhopsis" theory of muscular action which leads Hohmann to stress the complexities of the subject "which should always be kept in mind before carrying out muscle transplantations if you do not wish them to be wrecked." One would have expected a critical review of tarsal arthrodesis for paralytic lesions instead of the three and a half pages, half of which comprise pictures. Upon hallux valgus there are thirty-six pages in which the virtues and abuses of metatarsal osteotomy are stressed. Keller's operation, referred to here as Brandes's, is discounted because it does not deal with the fundamental deformity; nevertheless "in spite of this it is a very serviceable method." In the section upon club foot, there is no mention of the work of Denis Browne. In spite of such criticisms the work represents sound German conservatism and should be in every well equipped orthopaedic library.

Hand und Arm is an entirely new work by Dr Hohmann and though much of the criticism of his *Fuss und Bein* may equally apply to this, there is a little more attempt to encompass modern work. For instance, Bunnell's work is discussed (as also that of the other "Amerikaner," Smillie of Dundee!). There is however little recognition of British and American work upon peripheral nerve injuries—nor is there much discussion of splintage for the hand or of after-treatment and rehabilitation. Tumours of the hand find no discussion except for enchondroma and glomus tumours. There is very little upon tuberculosis, and septic infections are practically excluded as belonging to the field of general surgery.

These two works give valuable insight into present-day German orthopaedics, but it is extraordinary that, with the paper available, each should not give a complete review of the subject matter implied in its title.—Norman CAPENER.

THÉORIE ET PRATIQUE DE L'OSTÉOSYNTÈSE. By Robert DANIS. Professeur à la Faculté de Médecine de Bruxelles. 9½×6½ in. Pp. 298, with 274 figures, 1949. Paris: Masson et Cie. Price not quoted.

This is an important book. The beliefs and methods of Professor Danis have received wide acceptance in Continental clinics and the fact that they have attracted so little attention in this country is another example of the unfortunate segregation of western surgical thought into Anglo-American and Continental European compartments.

Danis believes in open reduction and in accurate internal fixation. His ideal is union of the