as redundant. On the other hand, those sections dealing with radiography and with anatomical experiments in the mechanism of the various injuries are most instructive to all comers, and the historical survey and extensive bibliography are valuable sources of information and reference.

The volume is neatly produced. The text is profusely illustrated with line drawings, photographs and radiographs, which show none of the defects of some recent publications.—W. D. COLTART.

DEGENERAZIONE E RIGENERAZIONE DEI TRONCHI NERVOSI NELL'UOMO. By Professor Silvano LEGHISSA. Aiuto dell'Istituto di Anatomia Comparata dell'Università di Bologna. 10×7 in. Pp. viii+282, with 145 figures, some in colour. Index. 1950. Bologna: Edizioni Scientifiche Istituto Rizzoli. Price L. 4,500.

Professor Leghissa has written an imposing account of the sequence of events following interruption of a peripheral nerve in man. This is illustrated by numerous excellent photographs of well-stained preparations, showing stages of the process that are usually seen only after experiments on animals. It is of great value to have evidence about the conditions actually occurring in man, but by limiting himself in this way, Professor Leghissa has also to accept the implications of the fact that he cannot control his method adequately. He is unable to support his conclusions with sufficient evidence to warrant their acceptance, especially where many of them do not agree with current doctrine. For example, he criticises the view of Nageotte, now widely accepted, that the central neuroma and especially the peripheral glioma are largely composed of Schwann cells. Leghissa believes, on the contrary, that they are mainly composed of collagen. This is a very interesting view and it would be very profitable to have estimates of the relative numbers of Schwann cells and fibroblasts and the amounts of collagen and axoplasm in the stumps at different ages. Professor Leghissa, being restricted to human material, cannot provide these figures, and tends to the extreme view that the Schwann cells play little or no part, a view he would probably qualify with wider and quantitative study. Again he rightly emphasizes the progressive increase of connective tissue in a peripheral stump that is deprived of axons, but proceeds from this to state that the chains of Schwann cells become converted into connective tissue cells. Everyone agrees that to demonstrate such conversions is one of the histologist's hardest tasks, and Professor Leghissa's human material is simply not adequate to prove his case. In general, his treatment of the Schwann cell problem is not satisfactory; when in doubt about the nature of a tissue, for instance an early glioma, he evades the problem by calling the cells "undifferentiated mesenchymal elements." His treatment of the problem of the rate of regeneration is most unsatisfactory. He lays down a maximum rate of advance of 2.4 millimetres per day, but without giving any clear indication of the type of evidence on which this figure is based. No attention is given to recent studies of rates of outgrowth and maturation of nerve fibres.

The chief value of the book is its emphasis on the importance of the connective tissue in the process of regeneration of nerve. The author devises several useful indices to show the proportion of a nerve occupied by connective tissue after various periods of atrophy. An interesting analysis is given of the histological findings in three homografts removed from men, presumably after clinical failure. There is also a discussion of the problems of regeneration presented by the chief human nerves, especially in so far as the connective tissue is concerned. The views of the author on the indications for early and late surgical intervention are especially valuable because of his emphasis on the effect of progressive fibrosis in obstructing regeneration.—J. Z. YOUNG.

SOME PROBLEMS OF ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS AND ITS SEQUELAE. By Erik SKINHØJ. 9×6 in. Pp. 183, with 20 figures. Bibliography. 1949. Copenhagen: Ejnar Munksgaard. Price Dan. Crs. 12.

This book is a most valuable addition to the already enormous literature of poliomyelitis, because it represents a very careful and unbiased analysis of all that is known about the 14,186 cases of this disease that were notified in Denmark between 1910 and 1944.

The author, who is a physician and therefore refers only briefly to the operative side of treatment, has, whenever possible, followed up at regular intervals for three years from the date of acute onset, all the 251 cases which came under his care in 1944. He has used the usual muscle charts for recording degrees of muscle power, and finds that, in spite of modern advances in electrical testing, the careful estimate of voluntary power is the most reliable and valuable. He gives the warning, which is amply borne out by the reviewer's experience, that three years does not represent the final limit of possible recovery, but considers that the main benefits obtained by