Book Reviews

INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS IN ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY. By E. J. NANGLE, M.B., F.R.C.S. Formerly Resident Surgical Officer, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore; and R.S.O., Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital, Oxford. Beit Fellow. 10×7½ in. Pp. xv+231, with 200 figures. Index. 1951. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. Price 42s.

I have nothing but praise for this book, which is almost the first of its kind in order of appearance and certainly the first in quality. The need for it is particularly strong at present, when the art of conservative orthopaedics is being pushed into the background by another surgical revolution, and it answers that need well. It will give welcome help to any orthopaedic surgeon, however senior, and it should be invaluable to orthopaedic ward-sisters and to residents. The title is a little misleading if by "instruments" one means the tools of the operating theatre. Perhaps the word "appliances" might have been better. Neither should the title be taken to indicate that this is a complete encyclopaedia, for it is not. Mr Nangle has very wisely restricted his field to the appliances and apparatus in use at the two orthopaedic hospitals where he has done most of his work, the Wingfield-Morris and the Royal National. It therefore follows that there are no gaps of any note in the subject matter, and, though it is not claimed that every appliance one can meet is described in this book, it would be quite true to claim that at least one way of doing everything is described in enough detail to be really helpful.

FIG. 79A
Plaster bed counter weighted.

The book starts by laying down basic principles of splintage, and very wisely devotes a whole chapter to the application of these principles in poliomyelitis. The appliances themselves are described with manufacturing details, as if this were the orthopaedic pharmacopoeia, which indeed it is. There is an excellent chapter on mechanical respirators, and one is very pleased to see Mr Nangle give due prominence to the suspension and counterpoising devices which he and his colleague G. F. Domisse first described some few years ago (*British Journal of Surgery*, 1947, **34**, 395). A chapter by J. T. Scales on plastics and their preparation and use in orthopaedics outlines what may be the shapes of things to come, and the whole book is beautifully produced.

FIG. 96

The Cholmeley opponens splint, applied for thenar muscle paralysis from poliomyelitis.

The illustrations really illustrate the points in question, and must have demanded a great deal of care and trouble and collaboration between the author and the photographer. Despite this, the book is by no means expensive at to-day's prices. It is seldom that a reviewer is able to give himself the pleasure of enthusiastic praise, but this book is as pleasant to review as it is to study.—D. L. GRIFFITHS.

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS INSTRUCTIONAL COURSE LECTURES. Editor, Charles N. PEASE, M.D., and Sam W. BANKS, M.D. 11×9 in. Volume 7, 1950—Pp. viii+285, with numerous figures. Volume 8, 1951—Pp. viii+356, with numerous figures. Indices. Ann Arbor, Michigan: J. W. Edwards Bros. Inc. Price, Volume 7—\$6.50; Volume 8—\$8.50.

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons arranges an instructional course every year in connection with its annual congress and each of these volumes contains a selection of the lectures delivered at one course. The contributions are of the highest standard and really amount to the carefully prepared presentation by leading authorities of an up-to-date survey of a wide variety of subjects. The lectures are of such uniform excellence, and there is so little personal axe-grinding, that it is unfortunate they are hardly known in the United Kingdom. It is invidious to pick out only a few names, but this is necessary to give an idea of the field covered. The thirty-three lectures in volume 7 include contributions by Copeland on cartilaginous tumours, Snapper on metabolic diseases, Strandkov on human genetics, Steindler on idiopathic scoliosis, and Bechtol on muscle physiology. Volume 8 contains forty-six lectures, including reports by sixteen surgeons on the work organised by Hugh Smith and carried out in conjunction with the Department of the Army and the National Research Council on medullary fixation of the femur, lectures by Kendall and by Hench on cortisone, by Colonna on congenital dislocation of the hip, and by Bosworth on slipping of the upper femoral epiphysis.

Dr Pease and his assistants must be congratulated—perhaps it would be better to say thanked—for the skill with which they have carried out their work. This series should be owned and studied by every orthopaedic trainee, and also by every surgeon who wishes to keep abreast of orthopaedic practice in the U.S.A.—Philip WILES.