Book Reviews

AN ATLAS OF GENERAL AFFECTIONS OF THE SKELETON. By Sir Thomas FAIRBANK, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.S., Hon.M.Ch.(Orth.), F.R.C.S. Consulting Orthopaedic Surgeon and Emeritus Lecturer in Orthopaedic Surgery, King's College Hospital; Consulting Surgeon, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street; Emeritus Consulting Surgeon, Treloar Orthopaedic Hospital, Alton; Honorary Consultant (Orthopaedic) to the Army. $10\frac{1}{4} \times 7$ in. Pp. xx+411, with 510 figures. Author Index. General Index. 1951. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Price 55s.

Sir Thomas Fairbank knows far more about bone disease than anyone else in this country. This is not only because of his many years on the staff of an undergraduate teaching hospital and of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, but also because he is our orthopaedic father, whose interests we know and to whom we all take our problems and prizes. For our part, we have received invariable kindness and wisdom; and for his part, Sir Thomas has accumulated a vast store of experience.

The quality and method of the sixty-two chapters need no description, because several have already appeared in this Journal, and readers know well their scope, clinical flavour and wealth of personal observation. They are even better when brought together with their fellows, and when preceded by a gracious preface and by an introduction that includes a classification and some useful diagnostic tables and discussions.

Seeing that many illustrations have been chosen for their clinical interest rather than their technical competence, production is mainly excellent, so that we forgive uncut pages and the omission of rickets from the index. This is the valuable book that we all expected.—H. Jackson BURROWS.

POSTGRADUATE LECTURES ON ORTHOPEDIC DIAGNOSIS AND INDICATIONS. By Arthur STEINDLER, M.D., F.A.C.S. Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. Volume II. Section A: Paralytic Disabilities. Section B: Static Disabilities. 10×7 in. Pp. xiv+198, with 140 figures. Index. 1951. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, Publisher. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. Price 45s.

In the Second Volume of his Postgraduate Lectures Professor Steindler deals with paralytic and static disabilities. The subject of poliomyelitis is presented in all its aspects and, as one would expect, contains a penetrating analysis of the mechanics of paralytic deformities. In the chapter on lumbo-sacralgia we note the emphasis on a conservative attitude in the choice of methods of treatment. The section on internal derangement of the knee joint follows conventional lines. In idiopathic scoliosis and static deformities of the foot, however, the writer's profound grasp of the biophysical factors concerned in the etiology of such deformities is once more an outstanding feature of his teaching.—Harry PLATT.

CHIRURGIE ET ORTHOPEDIE DU RHUMATISME. By J. J. HERBERT. $10 \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp. 297, with 203 figures. 1950. Paris: Masson et Cie. Price 33s.

A presentation such as this, of the surgical aspects of rheumatism, is much needed in the English literature. Not only is the author modest upon what can be achieved; he is thorough and eclectic. Detailed accounts are given of plaster methods in the correction of deformities, and of surgical approaches for the same purpose as well as for all the recently developed procedures of joint reconstruction. Difficulties and dangers are discussed, and very fair assessments of the results to be expected are illustrated by adequate case summaries. Medical works upon rheumatism are often diffuse because the boundaries of the subject are so difficult to draw; in the present work the scope is crystal clear and therefore refreshing. Furthermore, the precision of French technical literature is well exemplified.

The attitude of the author is nicely expressed in his postscript. "What are the conclusions to be drawn on completing this work? There is none, for my essay is only a contribution to an endless structure. I have tried to make a synthesis of what the surgery of rheumatism should be. I present my own personal experience and selected work from the contemporary literature. Such a work is merely a snapshot of current practice. We must be cautious in discussing pathogenesis