This is essentially a book for the practising surgeon who wishes to know exactly how to operate on a particular long bone; the types of fracture that can safely be nailed, and precise instructions about reduction, armamentarium and technique, are set out in each case. What is not so clearly stated is the indication for preferring medullary nailing to conservative, or some other form of operative, treatment. But it is only fair to say that Professor Häbler, though practising the method widely himself, loses no opportunity to warn surgeons of their responsibility for the tragedies which may follow improper indications and technique. There are some interesting sections on the help afforded by nailing in osteotomy and bone-shortening operations. Text and illustrations are excellently produced.—David LE VAY.

LECCIONES DE FISIOPATOLOGÍA Y CLÍNICA QUIRÚRGICA. By Francisco Martín LAGOS. Professor of Surgical Pathology, University of Madrid. Second edition. 10×7 in. Pp. 712, with 178 figures. Index. 1950. Barcelona: Editorial Científico Medica. Price not quoted.

This is a revised and enlarged new edition of a book first published in Spain in 1942. In accordance with the medical education and training of its author—he had been a pupil of Lexer—this is a typically German book in all its ingredients, from its layout to its sources. As compared with its first edition, a marked improvement is noticeable in the number and quality of the Anglo-Saxon and other references which have been introduced, giving a more balanced view of the subjects described in its pages. Nevertheless there is still room for improvement, for instance in the section on osmotic regulation where the works of Hamburger, Schade, Magnus and Koranyi are mentioned but no reference is made to the outstanding contribution of Starling or of the profuse works of Landis. The same may be said of the section on wound treatment where the author, following closely the old German teaching of Friedrich, still discourages wound excision after six or eight hours from the time of wounding. It must be recognised, in spite of this criticism, that in many other places the experiences of the last war collected on the Allied side have been duly acknowledged.

The book describes extensively the clinical, biochemical and pathological features of congenital deformities, infections, trauma and tumours, studied from the point of view of a surgeon. Evidence of the profuse readings of the author is found in the large number of contributions mentioned in the text, but unfortunately there is not a single bibliographical reference or a bibliographical index. Some lack of proof reading has allowed excessive mistakes to be printed, such as Zenón for Zeno and Levenq for Leveuf.

In spite of these shortcomings this is a book worth reading, particularly by those who are insufficiently acquainted with the sources of modern German medical literature.—J. TRUETA.

TEXT-BOOK OF SURGICAL TREATMENT, including Operative Surgery. Edited by C. F. W. ILLINGWORTH, C.B.E., M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.F.P.S. (Glas.). Regius Professor of Surgery, University of Glasgow. Fourth edition. 10×6½ in. Pp. xii+744, with 381 figures. Index. 1952. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Price 45s.

This well known all-Scottish symposium remains true to the tradition of general surgery in Scotland and covers the whole gamut of surgical disorders from appendicitis to congenital heart disease, from club foot to carcinoma of the rectum. It must be popular, if only amongst the examination-minded senior students for whom it is avowedly written, because in just nine years it has reached its fourth edition. However, the detail of treatment, with a few exceptions, is too sketchy to be of value in practice—for example, fractures are dealt with in forty-seven pages. The outsider cannot resist the conclusion that the labour of the many most able contributors has been misdirected, because, not unnaturally, they have found it impossible to discuss treatment without considerable reference to etiology and pathology. It needs only to expand the present volume by about one-third to make it a complete synopsis and provide, in a compact and readable form within a single cover, all the surgical knowledge the undergraduate needs for examination purposes.

In this fourth edition every chapter has been brought up to date, and valuable new sections have been added by Professor Walter Mercer on congenital heart disease (twenty pages), by Mr W. A. Mackay on arterial hypertension (fourteen pages), and by Mr A. R. Parkes on infection of the hand (ten pages). The production is in keeping with the high standard from which Messrs E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. never permit themselves to depart.—Philip WILES.