CERVICAL NERVE ROOT COMPRESSION RESULTING FROM DISC DEGENERATION AND ROOT-SLEEVE FIBROSIS. By Ragnar FRYKHOLM from the Department of Neurosurgery, Serafimerlasarettet, Stockholm. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 7$ in. Pp. viii+149, with 23 figures and 6 tables. 1951. Stockholm: Acta Chirurgica Scandinavica (Supplementum 160). Paper cover. Price not quoted.

Attention directed to the incidence and significance of cervical disc protrusions and their sequelae is a timely contribution. The author has presented an exhaustive and orderly study of cervical disc and nerve root pathology based on some thirty operative cases. The clinical picture of nerve root compression has been clearly shown. The causes of prominent symptoms such as pain have been carefully discussed. The etiology of pain having a nerve root pattern in the absence of gross protrusion of the disc has been extensively investigated. Dr Frykholm has explained such symptoms on a constricting fibrosis of the nerve root sheath. This root-sleeve fibrosis has been presented as a much more common cause of upper extremity pain than has previously been appreciated. Differential diagnosis, an outline of treatment indications and routine, and a description of the hemifacetectomy approach are included. The study is completed by detailed analysis of the thirty cases. The subject has been thoroughly covered with sufficient historical and clinical information to keep it interesting and practical. The concept of root-sleeve fibrosis is provocative. The book is recommended to all particularly concerned with upper extremity pain.—James E. BATEMAN.

LEG AMPUTEE: PRE-PROSTHETIC TRAINING. By Signe BRUNNSTROM and Donald KERR. Rehabilitation Series: No. 3. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp. v+44, with 72 figures. 1951. New Jersey: The Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation. Paper cover. Price \$1.00.

This booklet is intended for the guidance of leg amputees themselves and of those responsible for post-operative care and rehabilitation during the period between amputation and the supply of a limb. It might well be read by all house surgeons and particularly by those attached to orthopaedic and physical medicine units. It stresses the importance of an early start to rehabilitation, and of obtaining the full co-operation and interest of the patient in his own welfare and in preventing flexion and other deformities of the stump. It follows very closely methods used here for many years and differs only in minor details from similar publications issued by Roehampton Limb Fitting Centre. It is well written and the illustrations are good.

Attention to details, such as the correct position of the stump while in bed and simple bed exercises, is stressed. British surgeons would consider traction rarely necessary after a planned below-knee amputation. The stump bandage, to dissipate oedema and encourage shrinkage, should be worn by night as well as by day until a limb is fitted. In bandaging an above-knee stump a descending spica is less likely to promote flexion deformity than an ascending spica. The selection of crutches and the best way of using them is well described. Much useful advice is contained in the paragraphs on strengthening the opposite leg and on general reconditioning. The stump exercises advocated can easily be done at home. The correct handling of the patient is important, not only physically but psychologically, and the firm belief that the loss of a leg is an incident and not a calamity must be fully understood by the patient and his relatives. Altogether the booklet is a useful addition to the library of a Rehabilitation Department and is worth reading.—T. RITCHIE.

THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF SURGERY. By W. H. C. ROMANIS, M.A., M.B., M.Chir. (Cantab.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.S. (Edin.). Senior Surgeon and Lecturer on Surgery, St Thomas's Hospital; and Philip H. MITCHNER, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., M.D., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). D.Ch. (Durham). Hon. Surgeon to H.M. The Queen, Consulting Surgeon, St Thomas's Hospital, Ninth edition. Volume I—General Surgery. Volume II—Regional Surgery. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ in. Pp. xiv+1,891, with 728 figures. Index. 1952. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. Price 32s. (Vol. I); 36s. (Vol. II).

The first edition of this popular text-book written by two outstanding teachers achieved immediate and well deserved success. At that time, when surgical specialisation was but a tiny shadow on the landscape, it was possible for two men to have personal experience of almost the whole of surgery and deal with it authoritatively. But times have changed and surgical knowledge has grown. This is recognised in the ninth edition to the extent that the surgery of the eye, and of the ear, nose and throat, and plastic surgery, and the sections on venereal diseases, radiodiagnosis,