Or take the mallet finger (page 540). We might have been told how the term "mallet" arose (Goronwy Thomas is always grumbling that the deformed toe is likened to a hammer and yet the finger to a mallet). And I don't think it would be unreasonable for American printers to drop the word "Roentgenographological" in exchange for "radiological." But these are trivialities, in no way detracting from the real solid worth of this excellent handbook, which is sane and safe, just right for the young surgeon. So, as I say, I like this book.—Bryan McFARLAND.

THE SPREAD OF TUMOURS IN THE HUMAN BODY. By R. A. WILLIS, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., Professor of Pathology in the University of Leeds; formerly Pathologist to the Alfred Hospital, and to the Austin Hospital for Chronic Diseases, Melbourne. Second edition. 10×7 in. Pp. ix+447, with 85 figures. Index. 1952. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers). Price 63s.

Recent interest in his "Pathology of Tumours" and "Principles of Pathology" has given Professor R. A. Willis the opportunity of preparing a second edition of his earlier book "The Spread of Tumours in the Human Body." In its first edition, published in 1934, this work was a monograph of the Baker Institute for Medical Research of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, where its author was Pathologist for fifteen years. At that time the spread of tumours was a subject of some mystery, being little understood by many of those who dealt with cancer patients. To-day, largely because of Willis's work, the subject is less controversial, and both clinicians and pathologists are much more aware of its bearing on the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The second edition comes from Leeds where Professor Willis now has charge of the University department of pathology, and its appearance establishes the book as the standard presentation of the subject. The "Spread of Tumours" is based on an analysis of the author's 500 consecutive cancer necropsies. It defines and fully describes the metastasis of tumours, discussing the anatomical pathways (lymphatics, blood-stream, serous cavities, etc.) by which dissemination can occur, and gives an account of the varied ways in which metastatic tumours can produce signs and symptoms. Particular stress is laid on the "latent primary," a study of metastasis revealing how frequently these, and not the primary tumour from which they have arisen, are responsible for the presenting manifestations of malignant disease.

Those concerned in orthopaedics will be particularly interested in the sections discussing metastatic tumours of bone. Evidence regarding their frequency and distribution is presented, and an important section leads to the conclusion that these tumours invariably reach the skeleton by blood-stream dissemination. The nature of "Ewing's tumour"—a subject on which Willis has contributed a number of critical papers—is discussed: the role of metastasis, either from neuroblastoma or carcinoma, in producing the "syndrome" is stressed, Willis's view being that few of the tumours to which this name is attached are primary in bone. But, quite apart from its bearing on the understanding of bone tumours, the book should be read because of its outstanding interest as a general outline of the pathology of tumour spread. Chapters such as "Metastasis by the blood-stream," "The cancerous thoracic duct," "Transcoelomic metastasis," "Latent primary tumours," and "Secondary tumours of the liver," are gems. Accurate, informative and clearly written, the book is always stimulating, and has needed surprisingly little addition or alteration after nearly twenty years.—H. A. Sissons.

THE FOOT. By Norman C. LAKE, M.D., M.S., D.Sc., F.R.C.S. Senior Surgeon and Director of Surgical Division, Charing Cross Hospital. Fourth edition. 8½×6 in. Pp. v+466, with 166 figures. Index. 1952. London: Baillière Tindall & Cox. Price 25s.

This book has a wide circulation, especially amongst chiropodists, and it is therefore important that it should be authoritative. Many of the subjects dealt with are difficult and controversial, and, even though Mr Lake has not taken into account the latest work on gait and on the physiology of muscle, he does make a determined attempt to present some of the newer views about posture; but it is somewhat vitiated by his unwillingness to surrender his allegiance to the older ideas and this at times makes his argument rather difficult to follow. The descriptions of the straightforward disabilities of the foot are clear and accurate and should be of value to both surgeon and medical auxiliary, but the accounts of the more controversial subjects might well mislead those who have not made a special study of the problems.—Philip WILES.