THE SHELF OPERATION. An Evaluation of Results in Congenital Dysplasia, Subluxation and Dislocation of the Hip Joint. By Åke JAKOBSSON. From the Orthopaedic Department of Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm. 9×6 in. Pp. 120, with 34 figures and 22 tables. 1954. Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica, Supplement 15. Copenhagen: Ejnar Munksgaard. Price D. kr. 18.

Anyone interested in congenital dislocation of the hip would do well to read Åke Jakobsson's study of the part that the shelf operation may have in treatment. His contribution is clear, concise and comprehensive. The origin of the operation in 1891, its subsequent desuetude and its revival are all graphically described. Two hundred and thirteen operations are reviewed and analysed. One hundred and sixty-seven patients were involved, and the author is to be congratulated on the number he could trace. One fancies that he must deal with a more static populace than ours. He assesses the results particularly in relation to whether the patients had been treated for congenital dislocation before ("secondary cases"), or whether the operation was the first attention the patient received ("primary cases"). He also relates the results to age, and to the initial indications for the operation. The radiographs are clear. There are some very interesting diagrams and models, a most useful discussion of the problems of surgical technique, and some well considered conclusions. The whole work is characterised by a frank and reliable touch which makes it all the more commendable.—Bryan McFARLAND.

THE EFFECT OF CORTISONE ON THE FORMATION OF TENDON ADHESIONS AND ON TENDON HEALING. An Experimental Investigation in the Rabbit. By Nils CARSTAM. 9½×7 in. Pp. 111, with 23 figures and 28 tables. 1953. Stockholm: Acta Chirurgica Scandinavica, Supplement 182. Price Sw. cr. 15.

This is a constructive work which will well repay study, both on account of the author's observations and conclusions, and because it is a fine example of carefully controlled research. Carstam points out that "in traumatic and reconstructive surgery one of the main problems is the restoration of the gliding action of a tendon after injury." He sets out to investigate the influence of cortisone in the rabbit upon the healing of tendon, and upon the development of adhesions after tendon injury. He establishes the fact that cortisone has a marked suppressive effect upon adhesion formation and does not cause appreciable delay in healing of a divided tendon, provided retraction of the tendon ends is prevented. Carstam concludes that cortisone may therefore be of practical value in man, particularly for the prevention of adhesions after tenolysis with tendon continuity maintained.—R. G. PULVERTAFT.

FRACTURAS DE LA EXTREMIDAD SUPERIOR DEL HÚMERO. By Carlos E. de Anquín, University of Cordoba, Argentina. 9½×6½ in. Pp. 148, with 61 figures. 1954. Cordoba: Lutz, Ferrando y Cia, S.A.

Dr Anquín, a surgeon of the Argentinian Army, whose volume on painful conditions of the shoulder was reviewed in this Journal (36-B, 347) last year, has written now on the disorders of the shoulder associated with fractures. After an historical review, mainly of the methods for classification of these fractures, he offers his own nomenclature integrating some of the previous classifications, the main groups being intra-capsular fractures, fractures across the tuberosities, fractures of the surgical neck and complicated fractures. The clinical study is based on personal experience, a fact which gives this little book a particular interest. The last chapter describes substitution of the head of the humerus by an acrylic prosthesis, of which a model designed by the author is described. Three cases operated by this method are mentioned. Of these three cases only the last one seems to us to justify the procedure. The book is well illustrated and may be of help to those who can read Spanish.—J. TRUETA.

PERTE DE LA FLEXION DU COUDE: TRAITEMENT PAR L'OPÉRATION DE CLARK-SEDDON. By François PICHAT, aide d'anatomie à la Faculté de Lyon. 9½×6½ in. Pp. 63, with 4 figures. 1954. Lyon: Bosc Frères. Copies not for sale; obtainable from the author on request.

This brief thesis—it contains less material than the number of pages suggests—is concerned with J. M. P. Clark's pectoral transplant for paralysis of the muscles that flex the elbow. Clark's original paper is quoted at length, and the modifications of Seddon and other surgeons are described; the indications for the operation and the anatomy of the region are discussed in some detail. Seddon's results with seventeen patients are quoted, and seven more, operated on by members of the surgical staff at Lyon, are added. The latter were all performed for brachial plexus