and Paget's disease, or what is known about rareties such as cadmium intoxication, cystinosis or Brucella spondylitis. The references at the end of each section are not intended to be comprehensive, but they list most of the principal papers with a natural bias towards French authors. The illustrations are beautifully reproduced and have been selected with care; the only complaint is that there are not more of them. This is, indeed, a monumental work and, if the same standard is maintained with the promised annual additions, it will remain of lasting value.—Philip WILES.

RECONSTRUCTION SURGERY AND TRAUMATOLOGY. Edited by M. LANGE, with twenty other contributors. Vols. I and II. 10×7½ in. Vol. I, pp. 262, with many figures. 1953. Vol. II, pp. 244, with many figures. 1954. Basel/New York: S. Karger. Price per volume Sw. fr. 36.

The first two volumes on reconstructive surgery have been launched by the publishing house of Karger. Their aim is to make available a record of progress in the entire field of reconstructive surgery of the locomotor system as an international year book.

The first volume deals with three subjects. Intramedullary nailing of fractures is described in all its aspects by four authors, one of whom is Küntscher himself. The problem of aseptic necrosis of the head of the femur after nailing for fracture of the neck of femur is discussed by six authors in separate chapters. The final section of this volume is devoted to the treatment of irreparable nerve palsies and includes chapters on median, ulnar and radial palsies and one on poliomyelitis affecting the hand.

The second volume is divided into three main sections. Repair of the cut flexor in the wrist, hand and particularly in the finger is discussed from every angle by four authors. There are four chapters on the treatment of fractures of the carpal scaphoid bone and non-union. The last part of this volume is devoted to hare lip and some simple plastic procedures.

Although most of the twenty-six chapters are written in German, there are two in French and four in English. At the end of each article is a brief summary in all three languages. Unfortunately, some of the summaries only state what the article is about, but most include the author's main conclusions.

There is no doubt that these beautifully produced and well illustrated books contain the latest and most authoritative views on the subjects presented and should be in the library of every consultant dealing mainly with the surgery of trauma.—L. W. PLEWES.

ATLAS UNFALLCHIRURGISCHER OPERATIONEN. By Otto Russe. 9×11½ in. Pp. xii + 106, with 48 full page plates. 1955. Wien-Bonn: Verlag für Medizinische Wissenschaften Wilhelm Maudrich. Price 87s. 6d.

If a skilled surgeon with a lively temperament and extensive experience and an ingenious turn of mind writes of his own practice, the reader may reasonably expect the result to be practical, interesting and instructive. *An Atlas of Operations for Trauma* by Otto Russe certainly fulfils such an expectation.

The information it sets out to convey is presented in a novel and attractive manner. On each right page are clear simple semi-diagrammatic sketches and equally clear photographs: on each left page these are explained by brief but ample notes in three languages. The German version is followed by a complete translation in very good English, and below that a similar translation in what I judge to be very good French. Besides being useful surgically the text is therefore quite useful linguistically. In fact the illustrations are so clear as to be almost self explanatory, and the text, while concise, is still lucid and very much to the point. The general impression is as if the author were saying, "This is what I do; if you like it, try it; I have found it helpful. If you do not like it, well . . ."

A comprehensive field of traumatic surgery is dealt with on an anatomical pattern and in many of the more important regions alternative methods are described. In the spine for example there are several types of bone grafts, in the hip several arthroplasties; and for non-union in long bones several types of bone grafts are suggested. The author's own method of grafting an ununited fracture of the carpal scaphoid is clearly described, and looks so attractive that one almost regretted being rather disillusioned about grafting scaphoids. No metal is used either in this procedure or in some of the bone-grafts, and this is surprising in view of the fairly free use of metal in general. I thought the reconstructive surgery of the head of the radius ingenious but a little fiddling and

unpractical. It is difficult to see why so much trouble should be taken and so many risks incurred to preserve the head of the radius.

In only one point did the text and illustrations not make the meaning immediately clear. This is on page 94 (diagram A) and refers to compound oblique fracture of the tibia and fibula. In a personal communication the author, to whom I had written for clarification, agreed that in the second line of the English version the word "sling" should be "loop" and went on to explain that the 3-millimetre pin which is illustrated as being "temporarily" inserted was withdrawn immediately after the wire loop had been tightened over it. In other words the pin (or perhaps one might say "bent rod") was used merely to ensure uniform looseness of the slings. The interest I have displayed must not be taken to suggest that I like the method; I was merely anxious to be sure that my dislike was correctly applied. Anyone interested to know what all this is about would do well to get a copy. He will find plenty else to interest him. The fact that in an extensive work of this nature only such small points can be criticised is in itself a criterion of the high standard and interest which is achieved.—Bryan MCFARLAND.