THE CASUALTY DEPARTMENT. By T. G. LOWDEN, F.R.C.S., Consultant Surgeon Sunderland Royal Infirmary. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp. viii+278, with 134 figures. Index. 1955. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Price 37s. 6d.

This book is intended to be a guide to the casualty officer in the medium-sized non-teaching hospital, and to provide him with methods which he can safely adopt in the interest of the patients and an idea of the results he can expect to achieve.

To understand the method of selection of subjects and the relative emphasis it is necessary to quote the writer's definition of the casualty department. "The Casualty Department is a haphazard growth. The extent of its functions varies from hospital to hospital according to the stage of evolution of the other departments for, generally speaking, the Casualty Department deals with everything that nobody else wants." The emphasis is on minor wounds and infections of various kinds. Diagnosis and treatment of closed soft tissue injuries occupy ten of the 273 pages; injury to the knee is dealt with in four sentences; Sudeck's osteoporosis has two pages. Treatment of fractures is not included. Infections of the hand are completely and effectively dealt with and the reader is given satisfactory alternatives of treatment and told what results he should obtain. Thirty pages are devoted to open soft tissue injuries to the hand, including those with skin loss. The fifteen pages devoted to burns and scalds deal principally with the proportion of these injuries that can be treated as out-patients. The chapter dealing with the "cold" case includes a variety from malignant skin lesions to ingrowing toenails. More than a third of the book is devoted to anaesthetics, organisation, disposal and legal problems, and it is an interesting comment on our times that the space devoted to legal considerations equals that for closed soft tissue injuries and burns and scalds put together.

As the author says, the book produces "no new concepts of medicine or surgery" but it does contain a great deal of information that will be very useful to those for whom it is written. The one thing that this book demonstrates most clearly is that the department organised to treat "what nobody else wants" should no longer have a place in the well organised hospital service. If the general practitioner service is working properly it seems unnecessary to have a hospital department devoted to the "casual" patient. It is to be hoped that the name, which still means exactly what the author says in many hospitals, will soon begin to disappear.—J. C. SCOTT.

ESSENTIALS OF ORTHOPAEDICS. By Philip WILES, M.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S., Senior Orthopaedic Surgeon, Middlesex Hospital, London, and King Edward Memorial Hospital, Ealing; Lecturer in Orthopaedic Surgery, University of London; President Elect, British Orthopaedic Association. Second edition. 10×7 in. Pp. xv+538, with 393 figures and 7 colour plates. Index. 1955. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. Price 55s.

The second edition of Mr Wiles's text-book is extremely welcome, especially to those who have had practical experience of the help it has accorded to students before and after graduation, and to surgical residents. The expansion of the book is moderate in comparison with the first edition, fifty pages having been added by wise revision of all sections, particularly those on back pain and sciatica, congenital dislocation of the hip, osteoarthritis of hip and knee, ischaemic contractures and osteomalacia. The section on the shoulder girdle remains outstanding in its clarity and excellence of presentation, and the number of textual illustrations has been increased both in number and quality. If it were possible to frame synoptically a general section on the basic principles of fracture treatment, Mr Wiles will be the person to do it, and perhaps further editions, which will without doubt be called for, may contain such a section. The firm reputation which this work has so deservedly gained amongst students and residents during the last five years makes the addition of a bibliography section also doubly desirable. In a work such as this, where wisdom and commonsense have winnowed the tares from the wheat, the interested student would benefit greatly from a readily accessible list of the classical references.—Harry PLATT.

LES ARTHROPLASTIES DE LA HANCHE. By Jean DEBEYRE, Professeur agrégé à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris, Chirurgien des Hôpitaux; and Paul DOLIVEUX, Aide d'Anatomie et Chef de clinique chirurgicale à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp. 91, with 12 figures. 1955. Paris: Editions Médicales Flammarion. Price 1,700 fr.

This monograph is based on the experience of the authors in operating on 400 hip joints. The detailed follow-up on 178 arthroplasties of a minimum duration of two years and a maximum