to free the constriction round the great veins. An interesting route to drain the pericardium in suppurative pericarditis is described through the inferior route through the rectus sheath and through the gap between the xiphoid and costal portions of the diaphragm.

This volume is just as good as the other two.

This is an operative text-book that will be of immense value. It is beautifully illustrated and produced—indeed it is one of Butterworth's best—and, though there is a lack of uniformity about it, this is understandable where there are so many contributors. The following volumes are eagerly awaited.—Walter MERCER.

OUTLINE OF FRACTURES INCLUDING JOINT INJURIES. By John Crawford ADAMS, M.D., F.R.C.S., Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, St Mary's Hospital, London, and St Vincent's Orthopaedic Hospital, Pinner; Assistant Editor, *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. 8½ × 6 in. Pp. vii + 248, with 218 figures. Index. 1957. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Price 27s. 6d.

Only a few months after the appearance of *Outline of Orthopaedics* Mr Adams has brought out its companion volume, *Outline of Fractures*. Designed mainly for medical students, general practitioners and physiotherapists, this concise book covers the essential features of all the common fractures and dislocations. The first three chapters contain general information about fractures and dislocations, which has been condensed to a bare minimum. The rest of the book is devoted to injuries of the trunk and limbs. The description of each injury includes the anatomy, clinical features and complications, and is accompanied by exceptionally clear radiographs and well chosen illustrations. The hallmark of a good teacher can be seen in the diagrams, of which Figure 181 is an example.

FIG. 181

Fractures of the patella and their treatment. The diagrams in the upper row show the three types of fracture, and those below depict the treatment for each type. 1. Crack without displacement. *Treatment:* Protection in walking plaster. 2. Clean break with separation of fragments. *Treatment:* Patient under forty—Fix fragments with screw. Patient over forty—Excise patella. 3. Comminuted fracture with displacement. *Treatment:* Excise patella irrespective of age.

Modern text-books on fractures and dislocations are large and full of detail. In fact, several of the most popular are very large indeed, and to find the basic essentials devoid of controversy becomes an impossible task for the novice. It is just this information that the student will find in Mr Adams's book. There is a commendable bias towards conservatism, and when operative intervention is advocated the indications are sound and generally accepted.

One would expect an edition of high standard from an author with so much experience as an editor. In fact, the quality of presentation has seldom been surpassed.—L. W. PLEWES.