The final chapter on the management of the permanent disability is disappointing. It could hardly be otherwise to an orthopaedic reader when such important and difficult subjects as the use of apparatus, the place of corrective and reconstructive surgery, and rehabilitation and social resettlement are condensed together into a total of twelve small pages. As the writer says, "such a discourse is obviously beyond the scope of a book of this nature," but it is a pity that this, the first book on poliomyelitis to come from British orthopaedic centres, should give so little guidance in this field.—W. J. SHARRARD.

POLIOMYELITIS. By W. Ritchie RUSSELL, C.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., Director, Department of Neurology, United Oxford Hospitals; Clinical Lecturer in Neurology, University of Oxford; Consultant Neurologist to the Army. Second edition. 9 × 5½ in. Pp. xi. + 147, with 40 figures. Index. 1956. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. Price 16s.

The second edition of this book is longer by nearly sixty pages and the revision has been extremely thorough. The sections on the acute diseases are, if possible, better than ever and the expanded chapters on bulbar and respiratory paralysis will be particularly welcome to those who have to deal with these grave conditions. Dr Ritchie Russell has set out his views, which he holds very strongly, on the management of poliomyelitis in its early stages. He is against the routine admission of patients to infectious diseases hospitals, and he believes there is much to be said in favour of caring for patients with bulbar or respiratory paralysis in a special unit within the curtilage of a general hospital where the necessary expert aid, particularly that of the anaesthetist, is available day and night. He is persuaded that the risk that the disease may spread to others is negligible. Ritchie Russell is still not at ease in dealing with somatic paralysis. For example, in discussing paralysis of the trunk muscles he says "it is clear therefore that this group . . . requires prolonged periods of care in the lying position much of which should be spent in the prone posture," suggesting that in this way the development of spinal deformity may be retarded. This once prevalent idea has been exploded; the chief cause of spinal deformity is asymmetrical paralysis for which, as yet, no real remedy exists.

This good book is marred by a few inaccuracies that one does not expect from so felicitous a writer, such as precipitous instead of precipitate, constriction instead of constriction and subluxation of the odontoid process for what most people call atlanto-axial subluxation. But these are only minor blemishes.—H. J. SEDDON.

THE MANAGEMENT OF FRACTURES, DISLOCATIONS AND SPRAINS. By John Albert KEY, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., Clinical Professor Emeritus of Orthopaedic Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine, Associate Surgeon, Barnes, Children's and City Hospitals, St Louis, Missouri; and H. Earle CONWELL, M.D., F.A.C.S., Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Alabama School of Medicine, Associate Orthopaedic Surgeon, University Hospital, Birmingham, Alabama. Sixth edition. 10 × 7 in. Pp. 1,168, with 1,123 figures. Index. 1956. London: Henry Kimpton. Price £7, 10s.

The sixth edition is slightly reduced in size compared with its predecessor. When I reviewed this in 1951 I commented on the need for removing some of the many photographs, a number of which did not elucidate the text. Some of these have disappeared but the criticism may still be made. The text otherwise has been brought into line with recent developments, and the chapter on fractures of the hand has been improved. The chapter on intramedullary nailing is well balanced and cautious in its enthusiasm for this method, valuable in a limited application. The book presents a very well planned and judicious survey of the American approach to fracture problems, and the authors are to be congratulated on yet another edition of this famous text-book which, as they note in their preface, may be regarded as their silver anniversary edition.—J. I. P. JAMES.