RECONSTRUCTION SURGERY AND TRAUMATOLOGY. Edited by M. LANGE and twenty-one other editors. Volume IV. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 7$ in. Pp. iv+222, with 201 figures. 1957. Basel/New York: S. Karger. Price S.Fr. 46.

This volume, like volumes I, II and III (published in 1953, 1954 and 1956), is concerned exclusively with problems of trauma. There are two articles written in English, one in French and the rest in German. The first part of Volume IV is devoted to three articles by well-known authorities on recurrent dislocation of the shoulder. Eyre-Brook (Bristol) states clearly the indications for the operation of Bankart and the Putti-Platt procedure. Both of these operations are described in detail by Scaglietti and Calandriello (Florence). Lange (Munich) prefers an operation which includes an anterior bone graft and shortening of the subscapularis. Fineschi (Florence) and Böhler (Linz) contribute interesting articles on the late results of traumatic dislocation of the hip. Debrunner (Zurich) recounts his experiences with recurrent dislocation of the patella. Jonasch (Vienna) reports on more than one thousand tears of ligaments of the knee and concludes that conservative treatment is better than treatment by operation, whereas Merle d'Aubigné (Paris) after consideration of fifty-five cases is in favour of operative repair. Palmer (Stockholm) gives clear evidence of the good results to be obtained by early diagnosis and early repair by operation. Lange (Munich) also advocates operative intervention and gives the indications for repair in the early and late stages. This is the best volume of the series and no surgeon who deals with knee injuries can afford to ignore the excellent reports by these continental authors.—L. W. PLEWES.

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS. By Leon GILLIS, *M.B.E.*, M.B., M.Ch.Orth., F.R.C.S., Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Queen Mary's (Roehampton) Hospital, London. With a foreword by Sir Harry PLATT, LL.D., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S.(Hon.), President, Royal College of Surgeons. $10 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp. xiv+449, with 295 figures and 6 plates. 1957. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Price £15.

Mr Gillis occupies a unique position as Orthopaedic Surgeon to Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, for there he has not only the surgical care of a large and continuous flow of amputation cases but also at his elbow, the country's main limb-fitting centre, only limb research centre and largest limb factory. He is therefore ideally placed to produce an authoritative text-book on artificial limbs. By writing *Artificial Limbs* he has shown that he also has the enthusiasm and energy. Unfortunately, however, experience, enthusiasm and energy are not necessarily synonymous with successful authorship, and it seems very doubtful whether this book will achieve the status that all would have hoped for it. The work is divided into three main parts: Limb-fitting, Artificial Limbs, and Rehabilitation. The information contained therein is very extensive and valuable, and in case there are any gaps, which seems doubtful, there are exhaustive lists of world literature at the end of every chapter. But, if a book aspires to become a standard text-book, it requires a great deal more accuracy of detail, clarity of thought and exposition, rationality of sequence and relevance of comment than is apparent here. Though clearly an enormous amount of work has gone into the preparation of this volume, it is difficult to see how the prohibitive price can be justified, particularly as the blocks of over a fifth of the illustrations were available from *Amputations*, the author's previous publication. With the best will in the world, one cannot predict a ready sale for *Artificial Limbs*.—F. G. St Clair STRANGE.