optimally designed to meet this situation"? If this were entirely true it would be a sad reflection on a department of *medicine* which counts W. J. Little and Robert Jones amongst its pioneers. No one should regard orthopaedics only as a "surgical" subject.

The writers of this book have hard things to say about parents' organisations who use funds indiscriminately for mentally deficient children and join cerebral palsy associations as part of a refusal to accept the real situation. For economic as well as humane reasons it is well to emphasise the value of work in the home and in day schools, particularly for infants. In big centres of population this seems sensible, but in country districts and for older children the need for residential schools will remain.

This book is produced by an eponymous committee to further the wise and humane teaching of W. J. Little.—Norman CAPENER.

LES SPONDYLOLISTHESIS. By W. TAILLARD, Privat-docent d'orthopédie à l'Université de Zurich. Préface by Georges HUC. 10×6½ in. Pp. xii+188, with 15 plates and 56 other figures. 1957. Paris: Masson et Cie, Editeurs. Price 2,000 fr.

Spondylolisthesis is a subject of fascinating interest. Arising as an abnormality of bony structure, minor in extent but having major and sometimes alarming consequences, it nevertheless holds no threat to life. What is perhaps not sufficiently realised is that it occurs in the circle of articulations surrounding the centre of gravity of the standing and walking body and, as with subluxations of the hip and coxa vara, its relation to this focal point of stress is a dominant feature in the evolution of deformity. It is obvious that if there is any serious mechanical defect in any of the constituents of this circle of articulations the others must all be affected and eventually will present compensatory change. This is particularly well illustrated by spondylolisthesis. Furthermore the lesions of these other articulations might well illuminate the etiological problems that this deformity presents.

The present work is one of the best surveys of spondylolisthesis that have appeared, particularly because of the author's reasoned discussion of the etiology—congenital, traumatic, tropho-static and dysplastic. He totally discredits the congenital theory, but agrees that though the causal influence of trauma is uncertain it must, with static factors, play an important part in the evolution of the condition. A nice description is given of one or two cases in which such influences did in fact cause spondylosis at the upper end of the grafted area after lumbo-sacral fusion for spondylolisthesis at the usual lower level. For the present, Taillard feels that only the theory of dysplasia, influenced by a genetic factor, explains the observed facts in a satisfactory manner. From this review are excluded cases without neural arch defect ("pseudospondylolisthesis"), and other forms of vertebral sliding, such as fracture-subluxations and those due to inflammatory or neoplastic lesions. Treatment is very thoroughly discussed. Reduction is described as a possibility. The cases reported by Jenkins, Nicoll and Watson-Jones are mentioned; and a particular description is given of the earliest known case of reduction, that of Scherb in Zurich (1921), which is of interest because carried out by distraction in extension, a method which the reviewer also has found effective. Reduction of the deformity is almost impossible to retain. Posterior grafts do not offer much chance of success. The surgical treatment of the unreduced displacement by either posterior or anterior grafting is fully discussed. Posterior grafting has a 50 per cent expectation of pseudarthrosis of the graft. Anterior grafting has risks: the figure of seven deaths in seventy-nine cases is noted from the literature. Sensible conservative treatment is described. No mention is made of Girdlestone's original idea of fixing grafts between the transverse processes of the fourth lumbar vertebra and the ilium. The literary net has been cast very wide. It includes all the classical work, and amongst the moderns are J. F. Brailsford, R. I. Harris, B. H. Burns, I. Macnab, P. H. Newman and G. A. G. Mitchell to mention a few of those workers in whom we in Great Britain have a special interest. Your reviewer's conceit is slightly pricked by finding that his own work has been completely overlooked.

This volume is produced in the high standard we expect of Masson & Cie; its author is Swiss and comes from the school of Schulthess and Scherb at Zurich.—Norman CAPENER.

ARTHROPLASTY OF THE KNEE USING AN ENDOPROSTHESIS. By Börje WALLDIUS. 9×6½ in. Pp. 112, with 102 figures and 3 tables. 1957. Copenhagen: Ejnar Munksgaard. Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica, Supplementum XXIV (24). Price Dan. kr. 25.00.

The author surveys, in a very interesting monograph, the development of arthroplasty of the knee from 1853. He divides the methods into resection, arthrolisis, interposition and replacement operations. The published results of arthroplasty from 1914 to 1953 are tabulated, and it is suggested that good