Since 1946 Dr Jordan has been associated with a programme for orthopaedic treatment of patients with hemophilic disease in co-operation with The National Hemophilia Foundation which has sponsored their treatment at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. His monograph on haemophilic arthropathies is based on the study of 110 patients between 1946 and 1956, and he now reports the results of treatment in fifty-six of these patients. The method of treatment adopted was the gradual correction of deformity—especially, and most commonly, flexion contracture of the knee—by serial plasters, by wedge plaster and by Quengel casts originally described by Mommensen in 1922 for the correction of paralytic deformities. Later the limb requires support in various types of bracing appliance.

This is a very well produced monograph excellently illustrated, and about half the subject matter is occupied by detailed case histories of twenty-one patients selected to demonstrate specific aspects of management. As the author wisely points out, a careful study of these cases will reveal more dramatically than any of his statistical tables the value to the haemophilic patients of a carefully designed programme of orthopaedic treatment. What the author does not point out is the value to the patient of an enthusiastic surgeon, well trained and with faith in conservative methods.

This book is recommended for study by anyone who may be confronted by a problem of haemophilic joint deformity.—W. D. COLTART.

A GUIDE TO ORTHOPAEDICS. By T. T. STAMM, M.B., F.R.C.S., Orthopaedic Surgeon to Guy's Hospital. 9 × 5 in. Pp. 115, with 19 figures. 1959. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. Price 12s. 6d.

As Stamm says in his preface, orthopaedics has been defined as the art of restoring and maintaining the functions of the locomotor system. All medicine is an art, and it is a defect of most text-books that the science can be more easily set down than the art! In his little book Stamm is trying to convey to the non-medical members of the orthopaedic team the art which lies behind the science. He says they must understand the subject although they do not need to have an extensive and actual knowledge of it. His objective is apparent in every chapter, but it seems doubtful whether he will get understanding across to the incompletely trained team worker by the discursive and very personal style in which he presents his subjects. The book makes interesting reading for the experienced orthopaedic surgeon, but may not wholly achieve the object of the author.

It is significant that a well produced small volume like this can be put on the market for the low price of 12s. 6d. It may perhaps encourage the publication of similar monographs which would be more easily available to students and others than the standard text-books which so quickly become obsolete.—W. D. COLTART.

A SYSTEM OF ORTHOPAEDICS AND FRACTURES. By A. Graham APLEY, M.B., F.R.C.S., Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, the Rowley Bristow Orthopaedic Hospital, Pyrford, Surrey; Assistant to the Orthopaedic Department, St Thomas's Hospital, London. 8½ × 7 in. Pp. vii + 377. Index. 1959. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. Price 47s. 6d.

In this work Mr Apley has expanded his lecture notes issued to Final Fellowship candidates attending the courses at the Rowley Bristow Orthopaedic Hospital. His intention has been to instil a methodical approach to the subject by marshalling the facts in a standard pattern. Throughout, the emphasis is on the clinical approach; and the injunction to look, feel and move constantly recurs. Within 350 pages the reader will find the ABC of orthopaedics and fractures. The facts have been presented with brevity and dogmatism. The former is inevitable and the latter desirable for examination purposes. The reader must not look to find a comprehensive treatise on any particular subject—this is outside the scope of the book. If he requires further information he must consult other text-books and original articles. To this end, a useful guide to recent work is provided at the end of each chapter. The text is well set out with bold headings and clear sub-headings. There are no illustrations to relieve the text, but Mr Apley has accepted this as a challenge to provide unambiguous verbal descriptions in their place. The book as a whole is easy and enjoyable to read, being written in a stimulating and refreshing style. It presents a fair picture of modern trends in orthopaedic and fracture treatment, yet is sufficiently conservative that no examiner should take exception to the views expressed. While designed primarily for the postgraduate examination candidate, it should appeal also to the discerning undergraduate student and to those who teach them.—David L. EVANS.