Textbook of British Surgery. Edited by Sir Henry SOUTTAR, *C.B.E.*, D.M. (Oxon.), F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon, London Hospital; and J. C. GOLIGHER, Ch.M. (Edin.), F.R.C.S. (Edin. and Eng.), Professor of Surgery, University of Leeds, and Surgeon, Leeds General Infirmary; with seventeen other contributors. Volume IV. $10 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp. viii+699, with 405 figures and 4 tables. Index. 1959. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. Price £5, 5s.

This is the fourth and last volume of a work "intended to interest . . . general surgeons, registrars, postgraduate students and those reading for the Fellowship and other higher examinations." The three earlier volumes covered much of the surgery of the body cavities and of fields traditionally those of the so-called "general surgeon"; this volume is concerned mainly with orthopaedics. Sir Henry Souttar and Professor Goligher have called Mr Capener to their aid in its preparation and editing. The title of the work is a little misleading unless one appreciates that the term "textbook" does not imply a comprehensive account of all aspects of the subject. Moreover, though the authors are British, the surgery they describe is international in origin and in practice. The book is intended to be didactic and authoritative; it succeeds in both these aims. The postgraduate student of orthopaedics will find it invaluable, for it gives a clarity of direction and of analysis of opinions which is quite remarkable in a book by several authors.

The authors themselves (there were seventeen) were all active practitioners of their specialities when they wrote their contributions. They therefore describe the surgery of to-day, and with a uniformity of quality in their contributions that says much for the skill of the editor. Norman Capener, Lawson Dick and O. J. Vaughan-Jackson are responsible for ten of the twenty-one chapters, but none of the other fourteen authors is responsible for more than one chapter each. It would be invidious to select chapters for especial praise but, even so, one must point out Vaughan-Jackson's masterly review of hand surgery in only fifty-six pages, J. M. P. Clark's commonsense analysis of modern fracture treatment (in only seventy-four) and John Watson's chapter on burns as just what the postgraduate wants. Capener on general orthopaedic principles has given an outstanding introduction to the speciality. Adverse criticisms of the text would reveal nothing better than differences of opinion between the reviewer and some of the authors on matters of minor importance, and there can be nothing but praise for the way in which first things are put first, and in which important if controversial matters are presented. The excellence of the text, however, emphasises the poverty of many of the illustrations; and the high standard of the editing of the subject matter equally emphasises the way in which some of the pictures are presented out of order and even somewhat distant from the text they illustrate. Such a book deserves better illustrations than, for instance, Figures 23, 12 and 13, and more care in the arrangement of pictures than is shown in Figures 16 and 76. Figure 122 appears again as Figure 212 with no clear reason for the duplication, and the general standard of reproduction of radiographs is not good enough. These are, however, remediable faults. The selection of references by most of the authors is sound and helpful; the book is well printed and easy to read; the index is adequate. I strongly recommend this work to all postgraduate students.—D. LI. GRIFFITHS.

Surgery in World War II. Physiologic Effects of Wounds. By the Board for the Study of the Severely Wounded, North African-Mediterranean Theater of Operations. Report of the Board edited by Henry K. BEECHER, M.D., Formerly Lt.-Colonel, M.C., A.U.S. Prepared and published under the direction of Major General George E. Armstrong, the Surgeon General, United States Army. 10×7 in. Pp. xi+376, with 30 figures, 17 in colour, and 121 tables. Index. 1952. Washington: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. Price \$3.50.

This is a monograph of outstanding merit, extremely well and indeed lavishly produced. It has also great human interest because few comparable scientific studies have been carried out under such adverse conditions: details of organisation and photographs of the team in action allow the reader to appreciate the very great part that team organisation played in these studies, led by Beecher with a group of six other distinguished colleagues (Simeone, Burnett, Smith, Shapiro, Sullivan and Tracy Mallory). Despite mud, wind, dust, rain, frost and difficulties of supply, these men have made a very substantial contribution to the understanding of the mechanism of mechanical injuries in man. Their interest was from the first focused on anuria; but, although chapters on renal damage occupy the major portion of the text, they are illumined throughout by observations on and realisation of the "total body response".

Of the 186 patients studied sixty-five died (35 per cent), fifty-one with renal failure and thirty-five of these with uraemia as the chief cause of death. The most interesting part of the monograph is that