Open Reduction of Common Fractures. By Oscar P. HAMPTON, Jun., M.D., F.A.C.S., Assistant Professor, Clinical Orthopedic Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis; and William T. FITTS, Jun., M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Surgery, Schools of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Chief, Surgical Division II, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. 9×6½ in. Pp. ix+212, with 72 figures. Index. 1959. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. Price £3, 2s.

This small book on the open reduction of common fractures will probably be successful because the emphasis is on the practical details of technique. It will therefore appeal to those who shy when presented with theoretical chapters in which cherished techniques may be sicklied over with the pale cast of thought. It is a plain statement of a surgical repertoire found to be satisfactory by two practising surgeons. It is obvious that the writers are not only skilled operators and well qualified to teach the craft of operative surgery, but that they also have a very pleasant and economical literary style. The point at issue is whether a surgeon who needs such a small compendium ought to perform open operations on common fractures and whether men who have already served a practical apprenticeship to orthopaedics and traumatic surgery in a reputable teaching clinic will be helped by this book at the really difficult parts of a surgical procedure. Within the scope of 200 pages O. P. Hampton and W. T. Fitts have succeeded eminently well in covering the whole scope of an enormous problem. It is to their credit that they show no bias towards "plugging" any particular technique, and employ all the modern methods now available for internal fixation and use them in their appropriate sites. It is this aspect of the work which will probably be of the greatest assistance to surgeons interested in the operative treatment of fractures.—John CHARNLEY.

Über Frakturen am Oberen Humerusende. Eine Klinische Röntgenologische und Experimentelle Untersuchung. By Pauli TORPPI. *Annales Chirurgiae et Gynaecologiae Fenniae*, Volume 48, Supplement 83. 9¼×6¼ in. Pp. 164, with 31 figures and 23 tables. 1959. Helsinki: Societas Medicorum Fennica Duodecim. Price F. mk. 400.

In the light of an extensive literature and a few experimental researches the author considers the results of 265 cases of injury to the upper end of the humerus. He rightly states that there is no uniform classification of these fractures and suggests their division into: 1) abduction fractures, 2) extension fractures, 3) adduction fractures, 4) fracture-dislocations, 5) impacted fractures, 6) fractures of the greater tuberosity (he saw no fractures of the lesser tuberosity), 7) fractures by direct injury. This anatomical classification is based on the end position of the humeral head, and is related to the causative violence. It demands a radiograph in abduction to determine the correct correlation of head and shaft. Children suffer from: 1) metaphysial fractures, 2) epiphysial fractures, 3) fracture-dislocations. No mention is made of the multiple avulsion fractures in complete disruption of the short rotator cuff, or of the depressed fractures of the humeral head associated with anterior and posterior dislocations. Treatment is relatively straightforward, and the adducted position of the arm is generally recommended as the position of physiological rest. It is pointed out that elderly people tolerate the abducted position badly. Early mobilisation is advised. Subluxation of the shoulder joint in association with these injuries is briefly discussed, but pseudo-dislocation of the impacted and deformed humeral head is overlooked. This is an excellent review of the case material available, but, as this does not include all varieties of injury, the work is necessarily left incomplete.—J. G. BONNIN.

Reconstruction Surgery and Traumatology/Chirurgie Réparatrice et Traumatologie/Wiederherstellungschirurgie und Traumatologie. Edited by M. LANGE, München, with fourteen other contributors. Volume V. 9½×7 in. Pp. vii+304, with 142 figures. 1960. Basle and New York: S. Karger. Price S. fr. 79.

The fifth volume of articles on traumatology is well up to the standard of the previous four volumes published during the past four years. It contains the papers given at a symposium by internationally famous orthopaedic surgeons under the general editorship of M. Lange of Munich.

The first two papers, on supramalleolar fractures, by Compere of Chicago and Witt of Berlin, cover the problem completely, except for rehabilitation which is not mentioned. The vascular