Traumatismes Anciens: Rachis - Membre Inférieur. By R. MERLE D'AUBIGNÉ, Professeur de Clinique chirurgicale orthopédique et réparatrice à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris; and J.-O. RAMADIER, Professeur agrégé d'Orthopédie à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris. With the collaboration of J. CAUCHOIX, J. DUPARC, J.-P. LAMARE, A. LEMOINE, P. MASSE, R. MÉARY, M. POSTEL, Cl. TOUBEAU, O. TROISIER and R. TUBIANA. 10×7 in. Pp. viii+546, with 218 figures. Index. 1959. Paris: Masson et Cie, Éditeurs. Price 8,500 fr.

Merle D'Aubigné and his collaborators state in the preface to this book that the late disabilities caused by injury are in the main due to failure of early treatment. This is undoubtedly true, but so long as accident services and accident surgery are imperfect, such failures will occur and will present to the orthopaedic surgeon some of his most difficult problems. The authors are to be congratulated upon a clear, concise and, above all, completely honest account of their experience of such problems over the past ten years at the Hôpital Cochin.

Though the procedures recommended for each deformity are restricted to those of which the authors have personal experience, one of the pleasant features of this book is the consideration given to the other views, especially those of "Anglo-Saxon" and American surgeons. This we now almost expect from Merle D'Aubigné, who has done so much to bring French- and English-speaking surgeons closer together.

The book is divided into two parts, first the treatment of "old injuries" of the spine and second of the lower limb. In the first part there is a full description of unreduced and recurrent dislocations of the cervical spine and of the back pain caused by "old" fractures of the thoracic [dorsal] and lumbar spine. The authors are not impressed by the results of fusion of the thoraco-lumbar and lumbar spine, and prefer in most cases to rely upon exercises to develop increased power in the back muscles. Whilst agreeing that spinal fusion is often disappointing, many British surgeons have had no greater success by exercises. There is no doubt, however, that the authors are right in insisting that candidates for spinal fusion should be most carefully selected.

The second part of the book is devoted to "old injuries" of the lower limb; is largely concerned with the problems of mal-union, non-union and chronic bone infection after fractures; and is excellent. The chapter on non-union of fractures of the femoral neck is particularly admirable, though no mention is made of excision of the femoral head with or without osteotomy—an operation rightly favoured by many British surgeons. The chapter on stiffness of the knee after fractures of the femoral shaft, particularly in the lower third, is most interesting and valuable, as also is that on mal-union of fractures involving the ankle joint.

Due emphasis is given throughout the book to the difficulties and dangers of late reconstructive surgery, especially when undertaken in the presence of chronic bone infection. We are rightly warned that ill-judged major surgery on such patients may well lead to failure from flare-up of the infection, and even to amputation. Because of this undoubted truth perhaps the most valuable part of each chapter is that devoted to the indications for operation.

I found this book most stimulating and I am sure that it should have a prominent place in the library of all orthopaedic surgeons. If it is possible to enhance the reputation of Merle D'Aubigné and his colleagues at the Hôpital Cochin then this book will do so.—F. W. HOLDSWORTH.

Tumeurs Bénignes des Os et Dystrophies Pseudo-Tumorales. By André TRIFAUD, Professeur agrégé à la Faculté de Médecine de Marseille. Chirurgien des Hôpitaux; and Henri BUREAU, Interne des Hôpitaux de Marseille; with the collaboration of Henri PAYAN, Professeur agrégé d'Anatomie Pathologique à la Faculté de Médecine de Marseille. With a preface by Pr. Michel SALMON. 9½×6½ in. Pp. vi+279, with 136 figures. 1959. Paris: Masson & Cie, Éditeurs. Price 4,200 fr.

This thoughtful book is the outcome of collaboration between two surgeons and a morbid anatomist from the paediatric surgical and orthopaedic unit and the University of Marseille. As the title suggests it deals not only with the well recognised benign tumours of bone but also with a number of "pseudo-tumoral" lesions such as simple bone cyst, aneurysmal bone cyst, brown tumour of hyperparathyroidism and eosinophil granuloma. It is a pity that fibrous dysplasia is not included, because it may, particularly in its solitary form, present difficulty in differential diagnosis from a benign bone tumour. Lesions of the jaw are omitted because of their special characteristics.

After an introduction dealing chiefly with classification of bone tumours—always a thorny problem if one is to avoid, as these authors do, an unco-ordinated series of unclassifiable lesions—and a preliminary chapter on general principles of diagnosis and treatment, each lesion is described individually. The characteristics are clearly set out and illustrated by well chosen and well reproduced