Chirurgie der Hand. Atlas der Operationstechnik. By Marc ISELIN, Chirurg am Krankenhaus von Nanterre, Beratender Chirurg des Amerikanischen Hospitals (Paris), Mitglied der Akademie für Chirurgie. Unter Mitarbeit von Luc Gosse, Serge Boussard, Daniel Benoist, Assistenten des Krankenhauses Nanterre. Deutsche Übersetzung von Dr. Med. Alfred Lamesch, Chirurgische Abteilung des Marienkrankenhauses Hamburg. Mit einem Geleitwort von Prof. Dr. O. Hilgenfeldt, Augusta-Krankenanstalt Bochum. 9 × 10½ in. Pp. xii + 325, with 693 figures. 1959. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Price DM 69.

Dr Iselin of Paris is one of the pioneers of hand surgery in modern times. This atlas appears thirty years after the first edition of the author's text-book on the same subject, and concentrates on techniques. It is beautifully and copiously illustrated with line drawings and has sufficient text to explain the steps of each procedure. There is no discussion of diagnosis, operative indications, prognosis or results, all of which are to be found in the text-book referred to. It would be easy to find features to criticise in a work of this sort; yet one must recognise that hand surgery is very much an artist's craft. Surveying this work one should pay homage to a devoted artist and recognise that such a man can achieve marvels even by unorthodox techniques. It should not be judged only by what it shows but also as a companion to time spent with the master in his clinic. Apparently in Germany interest in the surgery of the hand in the modern sense has only recently been aroused. Iselin's work, now translated into German, should provide a further stimulus in that country, to study and advance in this important subject, to which already notable contributions have been made by Georg Hohmann.—Norman CAPENER.

Manual of Osteopathic Technique. By Alan STODDARD, M.B., D.O., D.Phys.Med., Consultant in Physical Medicine, Brook Hospital, London. 9½ × 6 in. Pp. 275, with 160 figures. Index. 1959. London: Hutchinson Medical Publications Ltd. Price 50s.

Anyone who wants to learn how to manipulate the joints of the spine could do no better than read this book, because the technique is clearly described and beautifully illustrated. But if he hopes to learn more of the pathology of the disorder that is being treated, he will, I am afraid, be disappointed. The author, like others before him, is content to describe the "osteopathic spinal lesion" in general terms that give no indication of its real nature. And his attempts at detailed pathological explanations are either based on irrelevant animal experiments, or else are deductions from the accepted medical literature that have no apparent scientific justification.

Dr Stoddard complains in his preface that a separate school of osteopathic thought is maintained because the medical profession fails to recognise the true importance of the "structural factor" and "mechanical derangements" in the etiology of disease. The profession does not deny the value of manipulation for the relief of pain in certain circumstances, and many doctors and physiotherapists now include manipulation in their therapeutic armamentarium, but it does think it wiser to admit that the method is empirical rather than to accept an explanation that is not soundly based.—Philip WILES.

Beiträge zur Manuellen Therapie. Eine Sammlung von Vorträgen anlässlich des Internationalen Kongresses für manuelle Therapie vom 1. bis 4. Mai 1958 in Baden/Schweiz. Zusammengestellt von Dr. med. J. C. TERRIER. 10½ × 7½ in. Pp. 173, with 16 figures. 1959. Stuttgart: Hippokrates Verlag. Price DM 24.50.

This is the report of a Symposium on Manipulative Therapy organised by the Medical Society for Manual Therapy in Baden, Switzerland. Papers from twenty-seven exponents are presented and offer data on "factors pertaining to the domain of manual therapy," such as "The Hand as an Instrument of Man's Will," "The Present State of Manual Therapy in France," "The Short Leg Syndrome," "The Modern Theories of Essential Headache," "The Skin-projection Diagnosis," and the so-called "electrical syndrome." The reader will find some of the papers acceptable on orthodox grounds, others he may perhaps merely take note of with a certain amount of scepticism.—W. D. COLTART.