The Human Spine in Health and Disease. Anatomicopathologic Studies by Georg SCHMORL (†1932), M.D.; Clinoradiologic Aspects by Herbert JUNGHANNS, M.D. The First American Edition. Translated and edited by Stefan P. WILK, M.D., and Lowell S. GOIN, M.D. 11½ × 8 in. Pp. xii + 285, with 419 figures. Index. 1959. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. Price \$21.00.

From time to time an American edition appears of some Continental classic, and we thus share the benefit of a translation into English. This has now happened with the great work on the spine by Schmorr and Junghanns, the fourth (1957) edition of which was reviewed in this Journal (1957, 39-B, 607). The editors have taken sufficient liberties with the German text and terminology to make for pleasant reading, and the book has been printed in Germany on the same paper as the German editions so that nothing has been lost of the magnificent quality of the illustrations.—T. J. FAIRBANK.

Antibiotics in Medicine. Scientific Editor: Lawrence P. GARROD, with eighteen other contributors. British Medical Bulletin, Volume 16, Number 1. January 1960. 11½ × 8½ in. Pp. xvii + 88, with figures, diagrams and tables. 1960. London: The British Council. Price £1.

Professor Garrod edits this bulletin of fifteen articles by eighteen experts which aims "to provide the reader with well-ascertained information on which he can base his own opinion." The orthopaedic surgeon will find many of these articles so lucid and so practical that he will tend to use it as a reference book. He may do so with confidence, but it would be a pity if he did no more than consult its valuable tables. Some of the views expressed here are still controversial, but clinicians have an opportunity of seeing how far their own opinions conform to the facts in this rapidly enlarging subject. Garrod and Scowen discuss the principles of therapeutics, Lacey the rationale and management of combined therapy, and Crofton the chemotherapy of tuberculosis. These articles on clinical use, and those by Dunlop on the dangers of antibiotic treatment and by Lowbury on bacterial resistance, should be regarded as "essential reading" by all who prescribe antibiotics.—C. H. LACK.

J.-M. Charcot 1825-1893: His Life—His Work. By Georges GUILLAIN, M.D., Membre de l'Institut, Membre de L'Académie de Médecine. Edited and translated by Pearce BAILEY, Ph.D., M.D., Director, National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness; Membre Honoraire à Titre Étranger de la Société Française de Neurologie. 8½ × 6 in. Pp. xvi + 202, with 9 plates. Index. 1959. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Price 50s.

Turmoil and crisis is almost the natural state of France. The nineteenth century was one of lasting conflict between the revolutionary tradition, which had set Europe on fire at its start, and the old catholic-legitimist tradition which refused to bow to the changed times. Corruption of all types was rampant. The century saw three major revolutions, the overthrow of the first and second empires and the overwhelming, catastrophic defeat of 1870, with a four-month siege of Paris and a civil war in 1871. Among all this disaster French literature flourished, but medicine did not, the leadership in almost all branches passing to Germany. The great exception was neurology, for modern neurology was born in nineteenth-century France and, despite everything, it flourished.

Jean-Martin Charcot (1825-1893) occupied a position in the history of neurology comparable with that of Robert Jones in orthopaedics. He, more than any other man, was the founder of the modern school. He created the greatest neurological clinic in the world at the Salpêtrière, in a building originally founded by Louis XIII to serve as a gunpowder store. His contributions to general medicine were of first-rate importance; he was an artist of merit, a pioneer of psychiatry and a medical historian. His pupils included Marie, Déjerine, Babinski, Freud and scores of others of world renown.

It is astonishing to realise that this is Charcot's first biography and that until 1955, when the French edition appeared, we had to rely on obituary notices and short biographical articles for the story of his life. Even his statue was impermanent; the Germans melted it down in 1942. Professor Guillain, who ultimately remedied this lack of a biography, was one of Charcot's successors in the chair of neurology at the Salpêtrière. He never knew Charcot personally, but he was a pupil of the great man's earliest disciples and is, of course, himself a neurologist of international fame.

The book is divided into two sections, the first dealing with Charcot's life and its circumstances, the second with his work. Both sections are short, and Dr Pearce Bailey's translation reads well. The first section succeeds in bringing the great man to life; the second is perhaps a little fulsome. Even Charcot's scientific work can receive a too glowing assessment (it is certainly not true that he discovered disseminated sclerosis), but that is a minor criticism. The orthopaedic surgeon is reminded that neuropathic joints were described by Charcot as occurring in several diseases, not only in tabes