Book Reviews

Surgery in World War II. Hand Surgery. Edited by Sterling BUNNELL, M.D., with many contributors. Prepared and published under the direction of Major General George E. Armstrong, The Surgeon General, United States Army. Editor in Chief: Colonel John Boyd Coates, Jr., M.C. 10 × 7 in. Pp. ix + 447, with 224 figures and 13 tables. Index. 1955. Washington: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. Price \$3.75

In November 1944 Sterling Bunnell was appointed Special Civilian Consultant to the Secretary of War in order to "guide, integrate and develop the special field of hand surgery". In nine general hospitals, units were set up to deal with hand injuries. These centres were manned by surgeons who had been trained in the clinics of Bunnell, Koch, Mason and Marble.

This book is one of the volumes that comprise the history of the Medical Department of the United States Army in World War II, and has been published under the direction of the office of the Surgeon General. In fourteen chapters the experience gained in the treatment of some twenty-two thousand injured hands is described. It is an outstanding work, and will certainly become one of the classics of hand surgery. Although it is under the general editorship of Sterling Bunnell, he saw fit, very wisely, to allow each surgeon in charge of one of the nine units to recount his experience in his own way. This has led to a certain amount of repetition, but has the great merit that emphasis is placed on different aspects of hand surgery in each chapter. All contributors, however, stress the importance of adhering to simple surgical principles in treatment. The unique opportunity that offers at the time of the primary operation must be fully exploited if the best results are to be obtained. Further praise is unnecessary. Suffice it to say that this book will be of immense value to everyone interested in the surgery of the hand.—DONAL BROOKS.

Physiology of Motion. Demonstrated by Means of Electrical Stimulation and Clinical Observation and Applied to the Study of Paralysis and Deformities. By Dr G. B. DUCHENNE (of Boulogne). Translated and edited by Emanuel B. KAPLAN, M.D., Attending Orthopaedic Surgeon, Hospital for Joint Diseases; Associate Professor of Clinical Anatomy, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. 9½ × 7 in. Pp. xxiii + 612, with 101 figures. Index. 1959. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company Limited. Price 77s.

Although the first edition of this book was published almost a hundred years ago, it was not available in English until recently. An edition was produced by Lippincott in 1949, and the present version appears to be a reprint of this. Duchenne's knowledge of functional anatomy was based primarily on clinical observation of both normal people and people with paralytic disorders. To this he added the use of faradic stimulation as a means of observing isolated muscle activity. He also investigated amputated limbs and necropsy specimens, making dissections and stimulating the muscles while they still had the ability to respond. A combination of these methods, applied with zeal over a period of many years, gave him enough information to write a book which is still useful for reference. Quite apart from its fascination as a glimpse of history, this book still stands as a valuable collection of facts; and anyone writing today on the action of muscles would be well advised to find out what Duchenne wrote on the subject. It is difficult to pick out examples, but in discussing abduction of the shoulder he leaves no doubt of the role of supraspinatus; and he quotes a patient's abducting his shoulder with the power of several kilograms despite a totally paralysed deltoid muscle. He stresses the different functions of the three parts of the deltoid, and concludes: "It seems to me that making a single muscle of the three parts of the deltoid is just as antiphysiologic as to consider all the muscles of the thenar eminence which move the thumb and its metacarpal as a single muscle". He had very good ideas about lively splints, and his opposition splint might well be as effective as anything in use today.—D. A. BREWERTON.