Book Reviews

Footprints on the Sands of Time 1863-1963. The Story of the House of Livingstone. Medical, Scientific, Nursing and Dental Publishers. 9×6½ in. Pp. 71, with many illustrations. 1963. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Limited copies available post free.

This is a readable, well-presented memento of the centenary of the House of Livingstone, from its small beginnings, through a notable past to its present greatness under Charles Macmillan. It gives an interesting picture of former medical Edinburgh and its worthies, and brings us down to modern medicine in the world at large. The book presents a pleasant blend of the domestic and the perspective, and should have a special appeal to readers of the Journal, the British section of which owes so much to its publishers and to Charles Macmillan: man of wisdom, foresight and forbearance.—H. Jackson BURROWS.

Clinical Orthopaedics. Editor-in-Chief, Anthony F. DePALMA, with the assistance of the Associate Editors, the Board of Advisory Editors and the Board of Corresponding Editors. Volume 23—Athletic Injuries. 10¼×7¼ in. Pp. x+314, with many figures. Index. 1962. Volume 24—Disorders of the Cervical Spine. 10¼×7¼ in. Pp. ix+253, with many figures and tables. Index. 1962. Volume 25—Gait and Posture. 10¼×7¼ in. Pp. viii+269, with many figures and tables. Index plus Cumulative Index (Volumes 19-24). 1962. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. Price 60s. each.

The three last issues of this journal, like the previous ones, are divided into three sections: firstly a symposium on a special subject, secondly a section on general orthopaedic subjects, and lastly a section on Basic Sciences and Pathology.

The major part of Volume 23 deals with athletic injuries and does so very completely, and with good advice. Every sport is dealt with separately and in this way it is unique, but as the sections are by different authors there is some duplication. There are two articles on ski injuries, one on throwing sports, and others on baseball, boxing and basketball. This, however, does not detract from the usefulness or the interest of the symposium.

The second section on general orthopaedics includes an article on the rheumatoid hand by Flatt. This is excellent, well illustrated and most helpful. Surgery in such cases is no longer experimental, and undoubtedly many more patients should be offered its benefits. The third section has a discussion on the crystal structure of bone, dealing particularly with the structure of the apatite. This will be of use for those who are interested in quantitative crystal chemistry.

In this volume there is a fourth section dealing with "Survival Car II" which shows what one company is doing to promote automobile safety. A drawing illustrates twenty-two important design considerations calculated to improve the safety of the driver and the passengers, including even an Alert-O-Matic signal to waken the driver if he falls asleep, or stop the car if he does not waken! Slick, but would it be in time?

Volume 24 in its special section deals with Disorders of the Cervical Spine. Perusal of the articles here presented indicates that the greatest number of abnormal conditions involving the cervical area are the result of trauma. With the advent of neo-radiographic techniques we have learned that the arteries of the neck may be occluded to produce vascular insufficiency of the brain and spinal cord, and Coburn describes the result of involvement of the vertebral artery in cervical injury.

Comparative electro-encephalographic studies following neck injuries and head injuries have revealed comparable abnormalities in approximately 50 per cent of both types of injury. This has clarified some of the subjective symptomatology. The conservative management of cervical injuries and anterior body fusion are discussed in useful articles. This symposium will be of aid in the diagnosis and treatment of patients who have neck problems.

The second section, on General Orthopaedics, has some good articles, particularly on the study of bone by radio-isotopes, the interlamellar thickness in human bone, and the quantitative micro-radiography of osteoporotic compact bone.