From the evidence for the existence of a Dupuytren's diathesis, it appears that the prognosis will be poorer in cases with foci elsewhere than in the palms. Various methods of treatment are described, and the results compared. The author prefers a limited type of fasciectomy. This preference is based on the relative frequency of recurrence after the more extensive, more disabling operation.

This book is in the tradition of the best in Australian surgery and is beautifully produced by Livingstones. Nobody studying the treatment of Dupuytren's contracture can afford to miss it.—H. Graham STACK.

Myelography. By Robert SHAPIRO, M.D., Chairman, Department of Radiology, the Hospital of St Raphael, New Haven, Connecticut; Associate Clinical Professor of Radiology, Yale University School of Medicine. 9½×6½ in. Pp. 278, with 236 figures. Index. 1962. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. Distributed in the United Kingdom by Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd., London. Price 82s.

This small book reviews the field of myelography with special reference to myelography using Pantopaque. The equivalent myelographic medium in this country is Myodil (Glaxo). Brief mention is made of myelography using other contrast media.

The book is an excellent review of the scope of myelography and of the variety of pathological lesions which may be demonstrated by its use. It will be interesting to radiologists, neurosurgeons and orthopaedic surgeons who are concerned with the diagnosis of spinal and intraspinal lesions. It is lavishly illustrated, though in fact many of the illustrations are drawn not from the author's personal experience but are borrowed from illustrations in the literature.

The price in this country is rather high for a book of this size; nevertheless this book is recommended to all who are interested in myelography.—David SUTTON.

Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research. Volume 26. Backache in the Aged. Editor-in-Chief: Anthony F. DePALMA. 10½×7½ in. Pp. x+241, with many figures. Index. 1963. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. Price 60s.

Clinical Orthopaedics started publication in 1953, being published three times a year. Then it was decided to publish four times a year. As a result of further increases in the amount of material submitted for publication it will now appear six times a year. The material dealing with the basic sciences and allied fields warrants a change in the title of this publication and the addition of a new section which is to be called "Basic Sciences and Pathology." To indicate the expanded coverage the title of the series is now *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*. To those of us who are subscribers there is no very obvious change in this journal and it remains what it has always been—authoritative and welcome.

A new feature, however, begins in this issue. Voltaire once remarked that a young man should have a general conversational knowledge of the ancient days but a good working knowledge of the historic development of his own period. The Editor will therefore republish material dating from no earlier than the latter part of the eighteenth century. This reprint will be related to the subject of the symposium.

Accordingly there is the opening paper from the July issue of the *Glasgow Medical Journal* in 1911 of a report of a severe intervertebral disc injury by Middleton and Teacher. In the same year Joel E. Goldthwait published a paper on a severely traumatised trisacral area, dealing especially with the appearance of the lumbo-sacral disc herniation into the medullary canal, and excerpts from this paper are reprinted here. These two papers are said to have formed the acknowledged basis of the subsequent studies by Barr, Beadle, Key *et alia* during the 1930's which defined our concepts of this common lesion.

Section I of this journal is devoted accordingly to backache in the aged, and appropriately enough the first article is by Barr—and Riseborough. Osteoporosis, neoplasms and fractures are adequately dealt with. In Section II—general orthopaedics—there are interesting discussions on anterior excision and fusion for disc lesions, and central cartilaginous tumours of bone. The Basic Science section deals with nucleic acids, protein synthesis of bone and the composition of bone.

This is an excellent volume, full of good material. Along with its excellent production, it promises a rich future.—Walter MERCER.