as the external diameter and this should give food for serious thought in Britain in view of the choice of 4 millimetres by the B.S.I. Committee on Bone Screws.

The chapter on the basic theory of osseous union is sketchy and obviously biased in favour of operative treatment, but one appreciates that the case for operative treatment would still remain unproved even if the whole of the book were to be devoted to experimental surgery. It is to be hoped that some day they will expand their very superficial references to experimental work on osseous union at present in progress at the Department of Experimental Surgery in Davos. As it stands at the moment this particular chapter has just about as much content of pure truth as the brochure of a drug firm.

In the chapters devoted to the instruments and the techniques for individual fractures there is a tendency for statements to seem a little inconsistent in different parts of the book. This is probably the result of the book being the product of more than one mind and also because the various techniques are continuously being developed and improved. Speaking generally I do not think this book gives as good an impression of the work of the A.O. as one gets from a visit to Professor Müller and from knowing the principal personalities concerned. The style of writing is commendably brief and free from padding, but the paragraphs tend to be short and profound statements contained in isolated sentences can easily be overlooked.

In techniques advised for individual fractures it is possible that their greatest contribution is the method of handling the Y-shaped supracondylar fracture of the femur. Fractures of the shaft of the tibia, on British standards, are grossly overtreated, especially since many of these injuries are skiing fractures with not very much damage to soft parts. When using intramedullary nails for the tibia Continental surgeons in general seem to have no fears about boring out the medullary canal of a young adult to a diameter of 16 millimetres. This must leave the tibia in the lower third no more than a thin bony shell on the outside of a steel tube, a thought which this reviewer finds horrifying to contemplate. Intracapsular fractures of the neck of the femur, where operative treatment is accepted by the most conservative of surgeons, receives scant attention and this chapter is so superficial that it might have been better to leave it out entirely.—John CHARNLEY.

A Guide to Orthopaedics. By T. T. STAMM, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., Orthopaedic Surgeon to Guy's Hospital. Second edition. 8½ × 5½ in. Pp. 118, with 20 figures and 7 plates. 1964. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. Price 18s. 6d.

The chief value of this excellent little book is that it takes the mystery out of orthopaedics. It is therefore of great value to those such as general practitioners, physiotherapists and doctors who work in school and public health clinics, to whom unfamiliar orthopaedic conditions and terms may present difficult problems. Orthopaedic surgeons themselves may be stimulated, perhaps even provoked, by the author's descriptions of controversial subjects such as the mechanics of the carpus (including fracture of the scaphoid) and abnormalities of the foot and their treatment. The text is notable for the clarity for which the author's writing and teaching are well known, and there is no doubt that this refreshing, perhaps even unorthodox, guide will continue to fill a gap in the literature of orthopaedic surgery.—J. S. BATCHELOR.

Symposia for Orthopedic Surgeons. 1) Practical Surgery of the Hand. Edited by Martin A. ENTIN, M.D., C.M. 2) Joint, Bone and Muscle Disorders. Edited by Edward F. ROSENBERG, M.D., F.A.C.P. 3) Surgery of the Lower Extremity. Edited by Harold A. SOFIELD, M.D., F.A.C.S. Reprinted from the Surgical and Medical Clinics of North America. 9 × 6½ in. Pp. 820, with many figures and tables. Indices. 1965. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company Ltd. Price £5 5s.

This is not really a publication that merits review because it is no more than three journals bound in one cover.

In the first, twelve international authors contribute twenty-two articles on practical surgery of the hand. It would be invidious to pick out any for special mention but all merit reading by those interested in the hand. In the second, thirty-seven contributors deal with joint, bone and muscle disorders in twenty articles. Some have direct, and others only peripheral, interest for the orthopaedic surgeon. The last gives us seventeen articles by twenty-one orthopaedic surgeons on various conditions of the lower limb, but no new message.

I do not think I can recommend this as a "must" for everyone's library. It should be read by those wanting background information but, for the orthopaedic surgeon, the general trend is too superficial.—C. J. KAPLAN.