The Shoulder. By E. A. CODMAN. Reprint of the 1934 edition. 7×6 in. Pp. 513, with 85 figures, 7 plates (2 in colour), some tables and an epilogue of 29 pages. 1965. Brooklyn: G. Miller & Company. Price \$17.50.

In 1934, at his publisher's expense, Codman published his famous book on the shoulder. This meant that the edition was necessarily a limited one, and in thirty-two years the book has become a rarity sought after by the knowledgeable because of the fundamental and persisting value of the work, and by the bibliophile because of its rarity and the unique preface which distinguishes it from any other medical work.

Codman was at heart a Puritan and a reformer, as he admits, and to assess the value of his work he regarded a knowledge of his character and motives as essential. The preface takes the form of a short biography in which his successes and failures, his controversial difficulties, his friendships and enmities, are set out with an engaging candour. It is impossible to resist an author who in his opening remarks says "A preface should produce a mutually forgiving human state of mind and give the reader and author a certain percentage of trust in one another—of course not complete." Like an O. Henry story, the sting lies in the tail of many of his shrewd comments. So thorough is the biography that it is a little difficult to determine why a further summary of his career has been added to the volume. Codman, like Lister and all other reformers, wished to add to medical responsibilities; resistance to added responsibility (without reward) seems inborn, and he naturally excited antipathy. He wished surgeons (and hospitals) to be judged by their practical results. This he called the "End Result Idea," now an accepted principle.

Codman had an open and enquiring mind. He was one of the first surgeons in America to realise the value of Roentgen's discovery and spent some time on developing x-ray diagnosis. He was the first surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital to repair a perforated duodenal ulcer, in 1909, and was a leading figure in the establishment of the American Registry of Bone Sarcoma. Turning again to the text, it is important to be reminded that the detailed description of the pathology of rupture, calcification and degeneration of the short rotator cuff has never been bettered. The signs and symptoms are set out clearly, and the conclusions remain unchallenged. There is a tendency to think that the volume is limited to the study of rotator cuff pathology, but it also includes a valuable analysis of brachial plexus injury, tumours in relation to the subacromial bursa, and rare shoulder lesions. In spite of its age, it still remains probably the most valuable reference book on traumatic and degenerative lesions of the shoulder region. The republication of the book is thus a valuable service to the profession, and as it is unlikely to bring its publisher much financial reward, he deserves our thanks for his altruistic gesture. Its availability will, I hope, encourage many to add it to their library and enjoy the energy of Codman's far-ranging mind and enthusiasm for his work. No one can fail to be entertained by the preface and the epilogue even if his surgical interests lie entirely in other fields. In Codman's own words, "Now start in and read the best book there is on the human shoulder." There was no mock modesty in him, but he had no reason to be modest. His faith in his work and his new publishers' faith in it will, one hopes, be reflected in the admiration of a new body of enthusiastic readers.—J. G. BONNIN. (Also reviewed in *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*, 1966, 48-A, 406.)

Die Wirbelsäulenleiden und ihre Differentialdiagnose. (Diseases of the Vertebral Column and Their Differential Diagnosis.) By J. E. W. BROCHER, Genf. Fourth edition. 11½×8½ in. Pp. xii+684, with 1,057 illustrations in 511 figures. Index. 1966. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Price DM 166.

The title of this book is, in many respects, misleading. It is in fact mainly an encyclopaedia of radiographs of different spinal conditions and both the clinical features and treatment are considered rather briefly. Etiology and natural history are also relatively inadequate.

Having made this slight criticism, one must then proceed to praise the rest of the book unreservedly. Naturally in an enormous compilation of this sort the author's special interests must play a part in the selection of those conditions to which most space is given. For instance 100 pages are devoted to spinal tuberculosis, twenty-five to non-tuberculous infections, forty-four to ankylosing spondylitis, and fifty to Scheuermann's disease, but only twenty-five to generalised bone disorders as they affect the spine, and less than fifty to spinal injuries.

Naturally the bibliography includes more references to German and French literature than the Anglo-American; no doubt this is a useful corrective to English-speaking surgeons.

As an atlas of spinal radiography the book is unsurpassed, but it is not, as the title might suggest, a comprehensive account of lesions of the spinal column.—Robert ROAF.