Assessment of Cerebral Palsy. 2) Vision, Hearing, Speech, Language, Communication and Psychological Function. By K. S. HOLT, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.C.H., Director, Wolfson Centre of Developmental Paediatrics, Coram's Fields, London; and J. K. REYNELL, B.Sc., Ph.D., Psychologist to the Wolfson Centre of Developmental Paediatrics. 9×5½ in. Pp. vi+187, with 45 figures and 13 tables. Index. 1967. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. Price 40s.

The capacity of a child with cerebral palsy to improve depends to a large extent on his capacity to learn. Orthopaedic measures by correcting deformity and posture or by restoring muscle balance serve only to make it easier for the child to learn limb control. Early assessment of the capacity to learn will show the special difficulties in any particular case and give guidance on the prognosis and the likely value of treatment.

Defects of learning arise from sensory inadequacy or distortion, from defects of the central organisation of the brain, and from defects of expression and communication. Their analysis requires the skills and experience of several professional disciplines. The results have to be coordinated into a unified concept of the patient's total disability. The difficulties may be profound. The clinician needs a working knowledge of the specialities concerned to be able to decide how much one defect stems from or contributes to another. The painstaking sorting of this type of problem must often lead to a disappointing conclusion, but will sometimes be brilliantly rewarding. The attempt is being made increasingly often as the need is more widely realised.

In this second volume (for a review of volume I see *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*, 1965, 47-B, 814) the authors describe the defects of sight, hearing, speech and mental capacity associated with cerebral palsy. Much practical detail is given on the special tests that may be employed. The significance of the results is discussed and their practical value in relation to treatment is outlined. The fallacy, for example, of placing undue stress on any single method of assessing intelligence is wisely emphasised. The stigma of a low I.Q. unjustly awarded in early life may take years to wear off. To the orthopaedic surgeon this book will be a valuable guide to the less familiar aspects of cerebral palsy. It could profitably be in the hands of all those concerned with the management of these children, including ward sisters, therapists and teachers. With its numerous references to the literature it can also be a useful basis for more detailed studies. The style is clear and economical and the illustrations are helpful. Essentially a book for paediatricians, it will appeal to all orthopaedic surgeons concerned with the complex problems of cerebral palsy.—A. J. HARROLD.

Calcium Metabolism and Bone Disease. A Textbook for Students and Practitioners. By W. P. U. JACKSON, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.C.H., Senior Physician, Groote Schuur Hospital; Head of Diabetes and Endocrine Clinics; Director of Endocrine Research Group, South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; Fellow and Associate Professor, University of Cape Town. 8½×5½ in. Pp. x+134, with many figures and 2 tables. Index. 1967. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. Price 30s.

This is a splendid little book—or so it seems to one whose medical student days were spent before the present surge of interest in and knowledge of the biochemical processes of the human body. Written in an easy and almost conversational style, it presents the problems of calcium metabolism and its relationship to the kidneys, gut, bone and so on in the simplest possible way. The text is always clear and often dogmatic. When the real answer to some particular facet is as yet not fully understood, the author says so at once and passes on to the next subject without more ado. Dr Jackson makes what has certainly for most orthopaedic surgeons always been a difficult part of their subject seem easy—and all in 128 pages full of useful diagrams and radiographs. He designed his book primarily for medical students, but we congratulate him on producing a very good thirty shillings worth for any of us who must occasionally face these problems in our daily work.—T. J. FAIRBANK.

New Essential First Aid. By A. Ward GARDNER, M.D., D.I.H.; and Peter J. ROYLANCE, M.B., Ch.B. 7×4½ in. Pp. 174, with many simple illustrations. 1967. London: Pan Books. Price 3s. 6d.

This is a splendid little book. It is well written and easily understood by the layman.

The whole approach of the authors has been to emphasise the priorities in the first aid care of the injured, laying particular stress on maintenance of a good airway and the initiation of artificial respiration if required. All unnecessary medical facts which tend to confuse a lay person have been