Some 300 pages have been devoted to vascular surgery. The reticulo-endothelial system has been granted a mere fifty pages. Herein lies the book's strength and its weakness. The section on vascular surgery is excellent. Each chapter is lucidly written and contains a vast amount of information on practically every aspect of arterial and venous disease. In any work of multiple authorship some repetition is inevitable, but this has been kept to a minimum by skilled editorship.

Where the general standard is so consistent it is not easy to pick out highlights. However, both Mavor's contribution on the natural history and pathogenesis of chronic arterial occlusion and Professor Taylor's chapter on its clinical management are outstandingly clear.

Unfortunately the section on the reticulo-endothelial system is less satisfactory. There is a useful chapter by Turner on haemorrhagic disorders. Apart from this, one has the strong impression that the authors were simply not allowed to extend themselves. For example, no one denies that the reticuloses are a difficult group of diseases to discuss. They are certainly not made less so by compression into five pages and two references for further reading. Nevertheless, this is a book which all surgeons with an interest in vascular surgery will wish to own. It will remain a valuable work of reference for a very long time.—John NEWCOMBE.

Reconstruction Surgery and Traumatology. Volume 10. *Strength and Morphology of Growth Cartilage under Hormonal Influence of Puberty.* By E. MORSCHER, M.D., Associate Chief Surgeon and Instructor of the University Clinic of Orthopaedics of Basle (Head: Professor G. Chapchal); Head of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology of the Burgerspital of Basle, Switzerland. 25 cm. (9½ in.) × 17 cm. (6½ in.). Pp. viii + 104, with 35 figures and 8 tables. 1968. Basle and New York: S. Karger. (Distribution in U.K., London: Academic Press.) Price \$9.35; 78s.

This short monograph is designed in two sections. The first and major part gives an account of experimental work on the tensile strength of epiphyseal plates in rats of different ages under the influence of various hormones. The results are related to the changes known to occur at puberty in males and females. In the second section their relevance to certain clinical conditions such as slipped upper femoral epiphysis and Scheuermann's disease is considered.—T. J. FAIRBANK.

Orthopaedic Nursing. By Mary POWELL, S.R.N., M.C.S.P., Matron, Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, Shropshire. Foreword by Sir Reginald WATSON-JONES, B.Sc., M.Ch.Orth., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.Ed.(Hon.), F.R.A.C.S.(Hon.), F.A.C.S.(Hon.). Sixth edition, 22 cm. (8½ in.) × 15 cm. (6 in.). Pp. xii + 690, with many figures. Index. 1968. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Price 55s.

This is the most comprehensive British textbook on orthopaedic nursing, and six editions in seventeen years are proof both of its excellence and popularity.

In the preface to the sixth edition the author comments that some of her colleagues had advised the omission of certain items in previous editions, whereas others had been equally sure that these same items should be retained. The danger of adding to, without subtracting from, a textbook of this type is that it tends to become too bulky and unwieldy.

The bulk of this book, because of the excellence of its matter and presentation, is well worth retaining, but there is a tendency to overstress certain nursing details carried out in hospitals of the Oswestry school to the exclusion of those practised elsewhere. In view of the author's training and loyalties this is not altogether surprising.

As knowledge advances textbooks tend to become larger and the time comes when two smaller volumes of reasonable size are more easy to handle and read. I am sure that further editions of this book will be needed and would suggest that, rather than eliminate some of the practical nursing items, the author should divide the book into two volumes, the first being based on Chapters I–IX of the present edition with perhaps more details of treatment by non-Oswestry splints and apparatus.

In spite of these minor criticisms this is a textbook that should be in the library of the nurses' training school of every English-speaking hospital and in the possession of every nurse, student or postgraduate who is studying the practice of orthopaedic nursing in this country.—John A. CHOLMELEY.