The style and presentation are disappointing. The bibliography is extensive, accurate and complete and would be valuable to those interested in research in this field, but this asset has, in a sense, marred the text, which reads as "hearsay". In the three-paragraph introduction to the first chapter no fewer than one in three of the words are references, which serves to break concentration on the subject matter.

The authors are acknowledged authorities in this field and have made important contributions to the subject, yet so rarely do they voice their own opinions that the personal pronoun appears no more than half a dozen times in the text. Whilst a certain diffidence is commendable, it robs the text of an air of authority and the book of "personality".

In the preface it is envisaged that the book will attract four types of reader: the research worker in electron microscopy and the non-medical electron microscopist, and pathologists and clinicians interested in joint disease. In my view, only the first half of this statement is correct.—B. HELAL.

Die obere Halswirbelsäule. (The Upper Cervical Spine.) Regionale Morphologie, Pathologie und Traumatologie Praktischer Röntgenatlas und Systematik. By Detlef von TORKLUS and Walter GEHLE, Hamburg-Eppendorf. 27 cm. × 19 cm. Pp. viii + 106, with 242 illustrations in 160 figures. Index. 1970. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Price DM 55.

This is an important book and it is a pity that being written in German it will be less accessible than it deserves. Those who have a special interest should not be put off by the language difficulty as it is beautifully illustrated and many points are made clear with the assistance of line drawings. The technical German is really not difficult to understand. In the introductory remarks is an important outline of the development of the first and second cervical vertebrae which simplifies the understanding of the congenital anomalies in the region. Thus, the line of separation between the body of the dens and the body of the second cervical vertebra is shown to be gently convex, an important observation in endeavouring to distinguish between congenital and traumatic lesions of the dens. The description of the congenital anomalies forms probably the most important section of the book, but there is also a section on trauma in this region. Anyone who has forgotten the significance of the Grisel syndrome or the nature of the Jefferson fracture will find the answers here.—J. G. BONNIN.

Atlas of Arthroscopy. By Masaki WATANABE, M.D., Director, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery; Sakae TAKEDA, M.D., Vice-Director, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery; Hiroshi IKEUCHI, M.D., Vice-Director, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Tokyo Teishin Hospital, Tokyo. Second edition. 26.5 cm. × 19 cm. Pp. 176, with many figures (134 in colour) and tables. Index. 1969. Tokyo: Igaku Shoin Ltd. Price \$26.50.

The first edition of this work was published in 1957, since when 800 more cases have been studied by knee arthroscopy. This edition is more than twice the size and illustrated with colour photographs and explanatory black and white sketches of a very high quality.

It is now a comprehensive guide with an ample and clear explanation of the arthroscope itself, of the technique for its use, of complications, interpretation of appearances and illustrations from many examples of most conditions liable to affect the knee joint. It is clearly written and beautifully produced and illustrated.

No orthopaedic surgeon intending to specialise in this technique should be without this book, but how much he or the patient would benefit by his mastery of the use of the arthroscope, and whether it would warrant the financial outlay, are matters which remain to be solved.—P. H. NEWMAN.

Manual der Osteosynthese. AO-Technik. (Textbook of Osteosynthese.) By M. E. MULLER, M. ALLGÖWER and H. WILLENEGGER. With contributions by W. BANDI, H. R. BLOCH, A. MUMENTHALER, R. SCHNEIDER, B. G. WEBER and S. WELLER. 27.5 cm. × 20 cm. Pp. viii + 297, with 683 illustrations in 306 figures. Index. 1969. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. Price DM 158; U.S. \$43.50.

These authors have established themselves as authorities on the engineering principles governing metallic insertions in bone. Their views are more accessible to English-speaking readers in the English version of their earlier book—*Technique of Internal Fixation of Fractures* published in 1965 and reviewed in the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*, 1966, 48-B, 200. The passage of time has inevitably called forth a new edition, which is set out in diagrammatic form with illustrations on the right-hand page and brief technical details on the left. While one would not wish to quarrel with the first section of the book, which deals with the mechanical principles involved in screwing, plating and intramedullary nailing,

one can quarrel with the second part, which shows their application to special fractures. One would not necessarily agree that the isolated fragment of a fractured head of the radius should be screwed back into position, nor are the technical methods of fixation shown in the treatment of fractures of the ankle desirable or even necessary. As a reminder of the possible methods of mechanical fixation available it is outstanding but one does not necessarily have to choose the methods indicated.—J. G. BONNIN.

Tumours of Bone. By Wilfred KARK, M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.A.C.S.(Hon.), Surgical Director, Workers' Rehabilitation Hospital, Johannesburg. 24 cm. × 16 cm. Pp. vii + 149, with 15 figures and 38 tables. Index. 1969. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. Price 40s.

Bone tumours, by virtue of their rich variety, seem to attract a much keener interest than their incidence would justify. The last decade has seen the publication of a number of authoritative textbooks on this subject which have set a standard against which any new offering must be compared.

Unfortunately this book does not stand up well to such a comparison. It draws heavily on the information contained in these earlier books, presenting good brief accounts of each of the tumour types without adding any new information. There is little mention of the more recently developed investigative techniques and no reference to current thoughts on immunological mechanisms in tumour spread and control which might justify a new book on this subject.

The author has managed to condense a great deal of information in a slender volume, but the total lack of illustrative radiographs and photomicrographs, presumably in the commendable interest of economy, greatly diminishes its value as a work of reference. The style and content are more suited to the needs of the postgraduate examination student than to the orthopaedic surgeon.—J. CHALMERS.

BOOKS OF ORTHOPAEDIC INTEREST

Renal Failure in Paraplegia. By C. R. TRIBE, M.A., D.M., M.C.Path., and with additional material by J. R. SILVER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P.(Ed.). Pp. ix + 107, with many figures and tables. Index. 1969. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Company Limited. Price 70s.

Disorders of Voluntary Muscle. Edited by John N. WALTON, *T.D.*, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of Neurology University of Newcastle upon Tyne; with 32 other contributors. Second edition. 24 cm. × 17 cm. Pp. xi + 941, with 198 figures. Index. 1969. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. Price £10.

Every chapter has been carefully and extensively revised and some completely rewritten. There are several additional new contributors. Among new features of the second edition are separate chapters on ultrastructure of the skeletal muscle fibre and on tissue culture, and a new chapter on experimental myopathies. The clinical section begins with a new chapter on the classification of the neuromuscular disorders and on clinical examination, and a further new chapter includes a number of disorders not hitherto dealt with.

Hüft-Fibel. (Hip Primer.) By Hans RETTIG, Joachim EICHLER and Otto OEST. Pp. viii + 136, with 218 illustrations in 89 figures and 3 tables. Index. 1970. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Price DM 19.

This little book is essentially an outline of hip diseases suitable for general practitioner reference, students or senior registrars. It is well illustrated and conveniently set out.

Spondylosis Cervicalis—A Pathological and Osteoarchaeological Study of Osteochondrosis Intervertebralis Cervicalis, Arthrosis Unconvertebralis, and Spondylarthrosis Cervicalis. By Philip SAGER. Pp. 238, with many figures and 28 tables. Index. 1969. Copenhagen: Munksgaard. Price Dan. Kr. 70.

The principal concern of this work is to try and establish a relationship between spondylo-arthritis and disc degeneration. To this end a large number of post-mortem examinations are recorded in detail and compared with bony changes in a group of skeletons of medieval origins. One conclusion is that spondylo-arthritis occurs as an independent disease with no causative relationship to disc degeneration.

Radionuclides in Medicine. By C. F. BARNABY, M.Sc., Ph.D. 22.5 cm. × 14.5 cm. Pp. xiv + 170, with 24 figures, 6 plates and 22 tables. 1969. London: Souvenir Press Ltd. Price 42s.

This is a short general textbook on the use of radionuclides in medical investigation and is not specifically directed to their use in bone.

Studies on Implantation of Anorganic Bone in Cystic Jaw Lesions. By Erik HJØRTING-HANSEN. Pp. 198, with many figures and 25 tables. Index. 1970. Copenhagen: Munksgaard. Price Dan. Kr. 75.