Book Reviews

Total Hip Replacement. Edited by Malcolm JAYSON, Department of Medicine, University of Bristol, Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath and Winford Orthopaedic Hospital; with twelve contributors. Foreword by John CHARNLEY. 25×15 cm. Pp. 1-152, with many figures and tables. Index. 1971. London: Sector Publishing Limited. Price £3·60.

This is a collection of short papers on a subject very much in fashion. It is not possible to work out for whom it is intended; at a guess one would say a trainee. An attractive aspect of the papers is that they are by people who know their subject as pioneers; these include McKee, Charnley, Ring and Scales. Dogmatic statements from such men must be carefully considered but not always accepted. Each contributor produces at least one statement about which there can be strong argument.

The papers by Ring on his own form of total replacement and Owen on the Charnley arthroplasty are clear and well illustrated. McKee, however, does not do himself justice and some of his illustrations are poor. One is frightened by Ring's advocacy of bilateral joint replacements at the age of fifty at one sitting. A lot of people will burn their fingers doing this. Who else can quote such a low complication rate with his type of replacement?

Arden and Ansell's paper on replacements in the young with inflammatory arthritis shows a natural progression of thought from replacements in the elderly. It is in this group that a follow-up report is particularly desired. The sepsis rate seems high.

Is Jayson right in stating that it is only with total hip replacement that we have arrived at a satisfactory treatment for severe arthritis?

There are two interesting papers from Bio-Engineering Departments. We know this aspect of the subject is vital. The final paper by Harris and Currey—Sexual Problems due to Disease of the Hip Joint: its Relevance to Hip Surgery—should not be in this collection but in one in which the whole subject of hip joint disease is discussed. There must be a place for such a collection.—E. L. TRICKEY.

Orthopaedics in Infancy and Childhood. By G. C. LLOYD-ROBERTS, M.Chir.(Cantab.), F.R.C.S., Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and St George's Hospital, London. Postgraduate Paediatrics Series under the General Editorship of John APLEY, C.B.E., M.D., B.S., F.R.C.P., J.P. 25×15 cm. Pp. x+337, with many figures. Index. 1971. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. Price £6·75.

Although this book was originally intended for paediatricians, the author explains that its scope was subsequently widened to make it suitable for orthopaedic surgeons, particularly those in training. This was a fortunate development and has resulted in a book that will have an extremely wide appeal.

It is essentially a record of the author's considerable personal experience. This is reflected in the fact that space has been allotted to each topic in accordance with the frequency with which it is met in clinical practice, at least in the United Kingdom, and extinct conditions such as poliomyelitis have been ruthlessly discarded without regard for their former importance. This principle could profitably be extended to some of our larger surgical texts.

The approach to problems of management is also personal and the only descriptions which are given at length are those used by the author. Contrary points of view are acknowledged and suitable references supplied, but these are seldom discussed in detail. As a result of these economies it has been possible to cover an enormous amount of ground in a comparatively short book, a fact which will undoubtedly enhance its appeal.

The text is lucid and entertaining, although the tendency to refer to operative procedures eponymously may occasionally force the uninitiated to make an extra visit to the library. Unfortunately the quality of the illustrations does not match that of the text. Some of the radiographs are of poor quality and it is a pity that there are not more clinical illustrations. None of these minor criticisms alters the fact that this will prove to be a most popular and valuable book for the groups for which it was intended. As an account of the personal experience and practice of a distinguished worker in this field it will be of interest to every orthopaedic surgeon.—B. MCKIBBIN.

(A number of imperfect copies (green dust jacket) with a poor standard of radiographic reproduction have inadvertently been released. The publishers would be happy to exchange such volumes for a better edition).