present state of knowledge, the direction of research and the accepted practice in treatment are presented with great clarity and authority.

This book can be thoroughly recommended as giving an overall picture of modern views on rheumatology.—James ELLIS.

Hoffmann's External Anchorage Coupled in Frame Arrangement. Biomechanical Survey of the Leg Fractures. Second edition. By José ADREY, Chief Resident, Orthopaedic Surgery, Montpellier Hospital. Foreword by Professor Jacques VIDAL. 21 × 15.25 cm. Pp. 69, with 55 figures, 11 in colour, and some tables. 1971. Paris: Éditions Gead. Price Francs 22.

This is a monograph on external skeletal fixation. Beginning with Lambotte in 1902, the author says, various systems of splintage using a scaffolding of metal rods outside the skin have been evolved. In Hoffmann's system (1938) the rods were anchored to the bone by means of screws driven through skin and soft tissues, three into the proximal fragment and three into the distal fragment of a fracture. The rods were then clamped to the screws. Some doubts have always existed about the rigidity of such a tenuous bridge and in the present work Adrey measures this factor. He also measures the rigidity of an alternative method of anchoring the rods, namely by using transfixing Steinmann pins. Finally he compares the efficiency of one rod, two rods and four rods in producing rigidity.

Although it is apparent that the method is limited to middle third fractures and that it is seldom used for any bone except the tibia and an occasional femur, it does emerge in the clinical section of this work as a valuable, or even necessary, adjunct in the treatment of septic non-unions. In primary treatment, surgeons who appreciate the benefits possible from internal fixation of severe fractures, but are too cautious to insert metal into a contaminated wound, might very occasionally find it useful.

A more distracting example of the Franglais language is unlikely to be encountered as can be seen from the title but the bibliography of 295 items—predominantly European—is very helpful and must provide one of the most comprehensive reviews of the literature.—J. H. HICKS.

Bone Plastic. By V. D. CHAKLIN. Pp. 224, with 86 figures. In Russian. 1971. Moscow: Academy of Medical Sciences, U.S.S.R. Price 1 rouble 11 kopek.

This splendid monograph by the doyen of Russian orthopaedists describes the use of various materials for bone substitution, including autografts, homografts and metallic replacements. Most of the book is concerned with clinical problems and these are well illustrated. Many of the methods are those devised by Russian orthopaedic surgeons, though in principle they are similar to those in use in other countries. The author advocates a combination of autoplasty and homoplasty to reduce the effects of tissue incompatibility which may occur after transplantation of frozen homotransplants.

The clinical indications and techniques are well described with reference to tuberculosis, joint infections, pseudarthrosis, deformities of the spine, bone tumours and chronic bone infections. The author also discusses fully the complications and difficulties which may arise and the theoretical basis on which future progress can be developed, including transplants of whole joints.

Many of the excellent illustrations are from the author's own clinical experience. A pleasing touch is added by the reproduction of an illustration of leg grafting taken from the works of Alonco de Sedano in 1496.

It is amazing that such an excellent book, so beautifully illustrated, can be produced at such an economical price. As a clinical guide to bone substitutes and transplants I cannot think of a better one.—Robert ROAF.

Malacia del Semilunar. (Malacia of the Lunate or Semilunar). By Don José Manuel Antuña ZAPICO. 25 × 18 cm. Pp. 343, with many figures, some in colour. 1966. Valladolid: Industrias y Editorial Sever-Cuesta. Price 600 pts.

This book, written in Spanish, is a detailed monograph on malacia of the lunate or Kienböck's disease. A previous edition was presented to Valladolid Medical School for a doctorship in Medicine.

The book is divided into six chapters covering the anatomy and embryology of the wrist bones, their blood supply and radiological aspects. The sixth chapter concerns itself with the etiology, clinical and roentgenographic picture, and treatment of Kienböck's disease. Special emphasis is placed on lengthening of ulna. It ends with fifty-five conclusions and 194 bibliographic references.