one of the original uses of air instruments, namely for cutting tibial grafts. It may be felt that hand-held high-speed circular saws are too dangerous in the operating theatre. Some of the uses proposed are rather far-fetched, as if versatility is being sought simply for its own sake. It seems excessive to propose that the few deft strokes of a hammer and punch required to insert an Austin Moore prosthesis should now be replaced by a compressed air battering ram.

There is no doubt that in many instances time can be saved by the use of power tools, and air tools with their finger tip control are better than electric motors with a less accurate foot control. It is demonstrated in this book how important it is to be mechanically aware of the instrumentation and to make the correct choice for the application. The volume ends with an equipment guide on gas supplies, sterilisation, cleaning, lubrication and a repair and maintenance section, and overall is an excellent workshop manual for the orthopaedic factory that should be studied by surgeons and more particularly theatre staff.—Gordon HADFIELD.

Hamilton Bailey's Emergency Surgery. Edited by T. J. McNAIR, M.D., F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.), Consultant Surgeon, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Chalmers Hospital, Edinburgh. Ninth edition. 25×17 cm. Pp. xv+981, with 1,155 figures, some in colour. Index. 1972. Bristol: John Wright and Sons Ltd. Price £12.50.

This well-tryed source of advice for the surgeon suddenly confronted by the unfamiliar and the need to cope with it deservedly retains in its title the name of its original author. Much that is familiar remains, with the result that some of the illustrations and even the phraseology have now acquired almost an old-world charm. Orthopaedic matters are dealt with in nine of the eighty-seven chapters and there are outstanding opening chapters on general matters of importance for the injured person. For the most part the advice is sound, and if some find it elementary the editor's statement of intention should disarm their criticism. A few matters of detail can be criticised, among them the recommendation that victims of fracture of the thoracic spine should be carried prone and that hyperextension plasters should have a place in treatment. The section on the cervical spine is disappointing, and it is unexpected to find a British textbook supporting laminectomy in the presence of spinal block and an incomplete lesion of the cord. On the subject of open fractures the author states the need for suitable training and equipment before using plates and nails, after which it is surprising that he should countenance the use of screws and even of wire loops. However, the fact that only these points are singled out for criticism is testimony to the generally high standard of the sensible, practical advice that this fine book contains.—P. S. LONDON.

BOOKS OF ORTHOPAEDIC INTEREST

Osteosynthese in der Handchirurgie. (Osteosynthesis in Hand Surgery.) By Alfred PANNIKE. 25×17 cm. Pp. xi+124, with 167 figures. Index. 1972. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. Price DM 48; U.S. \$15.30.

This book describes theory and practice in the use of internal methods of splintage of the bones of the hand, including wires, cerclage, Rush pins, and screws and plates. There is a section describing the instruments used, and a very large number of illustrated cases of all types.

British surgeons are not enamoured of the widespread use of metal ware for fracture fixation, least of all in the hand, because they are more used to conservative methods, but should there be difficult problems of instability the key will usually be found in this book.

Technologische und muskuläre Biomechanik am Bewegungsapparat. (Technical and Muscular Biomechanics of the Motor System.) By H. HESS and F. BAUMANN. Foreword by H. MITTELMEIER. Volume 9 in Bücherei des Orthopäden. Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für Orthopädie vereinigt mit "Aktuelle Orthopädie". (Orthopaedic Library—Additional Volume to the Zeitschrift für Orthopädie.) Edited by P. OTTE and K.-F. SCHLEGEL. 24×17 cm. Pp. x+103, with 62 figures and 19 tables. 1972. Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke Verlag. Price DM 39.

This slim volume is divided into two parts. The first is concerned with the measurement of compression between bone ends fixed together by a compression plate. This has been measured by a piezo-electric cell inserted between the bone ends. The investigation is of course concerned only with immediate pressure forces, and not with the continuation of compression in the living fracture. The measurements show that a pressure