orthopaedic disorder, but also reminds us of the embryology, physiology and anatomy of bone. Chapters on congenital deformities, general affections of bone (always difficult to present logically) and infections follow. The inclusion of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis together, in a chapter headed Chronic Arthritis, is an unconventional approach which could have succeeded had it been used to illustrate the essential similarity of the late effects and treatment of the two conditions. The relationship is not discussed, nor indeed is osteoarthritis secondary to any other destructive process mentioned. The essential difference in the surgical management of early and late rheumatoid arthritis similarly was not clearly explained.

Excellent chapters on neuromuscular affections, tumours and particularly amputations, prostheses and braces come before each region is considered in more detail. This leads to some degree of repetition, but on the other hand facilitates reference to specific disorders. A chapter on the general principles of fracture treatment seems out of place.

Although comprehensive and concise the average British medical student would find too much in this book for his immediate needs. For the Fellowship candidate, however, it would be admirable, providing the necessary knowledge of operative techniques was acquired from other sources. Perhaps the book will prove most useful, however, as an introduction to the subject for the orthopaedic trainee in his first few weeks of training. A selection from the eighty pages of references at the end of the book will guide his reading in the remaining four years.—A. W. F. LETTIN.

Orthopaedics and Accidents. By Margaret MILLER, R.G.N., S.C.M. Formerly Ward Sister, Orthopaedic and Accident Unit, Glasgow Royal Infirmary; and James H. MILLER, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Glas., F.R.C.S.Edin.; Consultant Orthopaedic and Accident Surgeon, Glasgow Royal Infirmary; Appointed Examiner for British Orthopaedic Nursing Certificate. Modern Nursing Series. General Editors A. J. Harding RAINS and Valerie HUNT. 22 × 14 cm. Pp. xiv + 256, with many line drawings and some tables. Index. 1972. London: The English Universities Press Ltd. Prices £1.35 unibook edition; £2.45 boards edition.

The authors have combined most successfully in one convenient sized volume a simple description of disease processes, the clinical signs, symptoms and prognosis of all the common orthopaedic and accident conditions that a nurse working in these departments is likely to see, together with orthodox methods of treatment with special stress on nursing and rehabilitation.

It will be of particular value to the nurse in training to help her to understand the why and wherefore of the treatment of patients she is nursing but it will also be a useful reference book for any nurse who has the care of orthopaedic and accident cases.

The text is clear and straightforward and the line drawings are very adequate and easy to understand.—John A. CHOLMELEY.

BOOKS OF ORTHOPAEDIC INTEREST

The Effects of Irradiation on the Skeleton. By Janet M. VAUGHAN, D.M., F.R.C.P. 24 × 16.5 cm. Pp. xvi + 297, with many figures and some tables. Index. 1973. Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press. Price £7.75.

The present monograph, which is written from the point of view of the biologist rather than the physicist, attempts to review the scattered clinical literature dealing with the effects of external radiation, and to analyse the much more recent experimental observations on the effect of the bone seeking radionuclides, particularly radium, strontium and plutonium. The possible part played by a virus as a co-factor in human osteosarcoma and in experimental malignancies in animals is discussed.

Emphasis is laid on the remarkable species differences observed in the response of experimental animals to radiation, and therefore on the risk of too close reliance on animal experiments in assessing radiation hazards to man.

Total Management of the Arthritic Patient. Edited by George E. EHRLICH, M.D., F.A.C.P. Foreword by E. G. L. BYWATERS, M.D., F.R.C.P. 26 × 18 cm. Pp. xiii + 265, with many figures and some tables. Index. 1973. Philadelphia, Toronto: J. B. Lippincott Company. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. Price £10.

This relatively short book written by eight authors can only provide a general introduction to the subject, though it is of value in collating the various disciplines involved. Amusingly enough Professor Bywaters's introduction opens with the remark: "A Foreword should be forward-looking and this is easier when the writer has not read the book".