Vertebral Manipulation. By G. D. MAITLAND, A.U.A., F.C.S.P., M.A.P.A., Part-time Lecturer in Physiotherapy, South Australian Institute of Technology, Adelaide. With a contribution by D. A. BREWERTON, M.D., M.R.C.P., Consultant Physician in Physical Medicine to Westminster Hospital and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, London. Third edition. 22×15 cm. Pp. x+269, with 110 line drawings, three plates and some tables. Index. 1973. London: Butterworths. Price: cased £5.50; limp £3.50.

It is with particular pleasure that I have read the third edition of Mr Maitland's book as I was introduced to the idea of manipulation even before I was a medical student by my father, a general surgeon of the old school, and a pupil of Mr Howard Marsh at St Bartholomew's Hospital nearly a hundred years ago.

Although this is essentially a practical textbook for physiotherapists there is much in it to interest orthopaedic surgeons, and the present edition appears appropriately at a time when manipulation as both an art and science is taking its correct relative place in the therapeutic field. It is good to find the techniques so very carefully, systematically and clearly described by Mr Maitland, whose name has already become part of the vocabulary of many Physical Medicine Departments, a practice to which, I gather, he raises some understandable objection.

I think it is almost a pity that the final section of the book has been included as it could be interpreted by some as a justification for a system which needs none. It is certainly a pity that the physiotherapist so consistently referred to as "she" is equally consistently illustrated as a well proportioned "he". But if anyone thinks that it requires a female of Amazonian stature to manipulate the lumbar or dorsal spine then I would invite him, or her, to spend a few minutes under the gentle hands of a really skilled operator and he, or she, will surely be convinced otherwise. I also feel that some passing mention of manipulation under anaesthesia could have been included, as it is a procedure employed by many of us and should be correlated with Mr Maitland's techniques. I was surprised to find that several manoeuvres which I was taught thirty-five years ago have not been demonstrated—but perhaps they have gone out of fashion!

These details, however, hardly detract from the general excellence of the presentation, and I would respectfully suggest that the book is a **MUST** for Physical Medicine Departments and a **SHOULD** for most orthopaedic surgeons.—John E. BUCK.

Understanding the Scientific Bases of Human Movement. By Alice L. O'CONNELL, Ph.D., F.A.C.S.M., F.A.A.H.P.E.R., Associate Professor of Biomechanics; and Elizabeth B. GARDNER, Ph.D., F.A.C.S.M., Professor of Biology and Physiology, Emerita, Boston University, Sargent College of Allied Health Professions. 28.5×22 cm. Pp. x+264, with many figures and some tables. Index. 1972. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. Price £8.50.

This is an interesting example of a college textbook aimed at teaching physical education and therapy students the basis of kinesiology, i.e., the application of anatomy and mechanics to human movements. Quite rightly the authors emphasise that the subject is advancing beyond these subjects to include neurophysiological aspects of motor control, psychology of learning and of performance, etc.

This is a working text, answering such questions as mass of the linear body and its parts; acceleration; forces and their kinetic analysis based mainly upon theoretical models from the results of motion picture analyses of position; centre of gravity (by water displacement methods), linear velocities, and so on.

The stated aims are met in a concise and clearly presented fashion, but events will soon overtake this form of knowledge. One has the impression that with the use of "gait platforms", accelerometry, the identification of intra- and extra-articular mechano-receptors and some pick-up of their impulses, the position and movement of man and his parts within his environment will become measureable and understandable.

It is difficult to recommend this book for general postgraduate reading by orthopaedists. However, it contains a great deal of knowledge which we have failed to appreciate and which is applicable to our work both from the reconstructive point of view and certainly in our practice of rehabilitation.—R. B. DUTHIE.

BOOKS OF ORTHOPAEDIC INTEREST

Trauma Surgery, Excepting Bones and Joints. By Philip POWLEY, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.E. With contributions from John GARFIELD, M.Chir., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., and Ronald THEXTON, F.D.S., H.D.D., R.C.S., L.D.S. With a foreword by P. S. LONDON, M.B.E., F.R.C.S. Pp. x+127, with 18 figures. Index. 1973. Bristol: John Wright and Sons Ltd. Price £1.50.