Femoral Shaft Fractures in Adults. A Study of 329 Consecutive Cases with a Statistical Analysis of Different Methods of Treatment. Medical Series No. 227. By Gauke KOOTSTRA, M.D. 25.5 × 17.5 cm. Pp. viii + 148, with 33 figures and 103 tables. 1973. Assen, Netherlands: Van Gorcum and Company B.V. Price Dfl. 29.

This monograph reports a retrospective study of 329 consecutive patients who all had fractures of the femoral shaft, and the total number of such fractures was 335. The shaft was considered to be a compact bone extending from the lower end of the lesser trochanter to just above the femoral condyles. The period under study was twelve years, and patients under seventeen years of age and those with pathological fractures were excluded. Three-quarters of the patients had been involved in road traffic accidents. One in seven had an open fracture. Almost half had at least one associated injury. The follow-up time was at least two years. There were four methods of treatment: 1. conservative; 2. Küntscher nailing without reaming; 3. Küntscher nailing with reaming; and 4. A.O.-plating.

There are excellent chapters on anatomy and on fracture mechanics. There are also chapters on the duration of fracture union and the various types of complications. There is a detailed chapter on the anatomical and functional results. There is an excellent chapter on the socio-economic aspects. The problem of treatment of femoral shaft fractures with combined injuries is also fully discussed.

The final conclusions were that although conservative treatment was satisfactory in many patients, the use of this method of treatment should be reconsidered. It was felt that Küntscher nailing with reaming of the medullary cavity and A.O.-plating ensured a considerable gain for the majority of patients if the treatment was carried out at the correct time. The indications for internal fixation as initial treatment are clearly given. This treatment should be used only if there was some serious homolateral fracture or injury, or severe vascular or nerve damage. The serious infections that may occur after osteosynthesis are given due mention.

This is an excellent monograph, written in faultless English. The illustrations are good and the layout is clear and helps the reader to follow the various themes of the author. It is a book which every surgeon interested in the treatment of these injuries should read. It will be found to be both instructive and educational and it is strongly recommended.—R. I. WILSON.

Du Vries' Surgery of the Foot. Edited by Verne T. INMAN, M.D., Ph.D., with twelve other contributors. Third edition. 26 × 18.5 cm. Pp. xvi + 567, with many figures and some tables. Index. 1973. Saint Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company. London: Henry Kimpton Publishers. Price £12.35.

In the normal course of events a further edition of a well known work does not attract a formal review in this Journal. Dr Henri Du Vries, however, has now resigned as the editor of *Surgery of the Foot* in favour of Dr Verne Inman, who wished to avoid a book of "surgical recipes for specific disorders", and with the aid of several members of the faculty of the University of California School of Medicine has made some radical changes. Purely descriptive anatomy has given way to an authoritative discussion of the biomechanics of the foot and ankle; chapters on systemic diseases are now included; most of the clinical disorders are described quite separately from the appropriate surgical treatment; short historical reviews of various procedures are given; and the number of references is vastly increased.

These changes affect most of the twenty chapters, but three are still the genuine Du Vries and continue to reflect both his wide clinical experience and the confident advice he has distilled from it. The difference in treatment affords a marked contrast in style between the new and the old.

Much of the new writing has the character of an essay or of a companion to wide further reading and is largely non-committal; thus Dr Inman's chapter on the principles of examination is followed by eight pages of references (including no less than 112 on inequality of length of leg), and elsewhere there is no forthright advice on how to set about common procedures such as a simple triple arthrodesis, late repair of a ruptured calcaneal tendon or transfer of the tendon of tibialis posterior to the dorsum. The older material, which deals mainly with the metatarsus and toes, with the operative successes given point by numerous examples of failure of other methods, is still intensely practical. Thus the Du Vries modification of the McBride technique for the common adult type of hallux valgus is described in twenty-two steps and ten line drawings, whereas the Mayo procedure is damned both verbally and in four pages of cautionary radiographs. Keller's operation, said to be widely used in the United States, fares no better.

Very naturally one cannot agree with all of the vast number of opinions expressed or implied in a work of this magnitude. On facing pages, for instance, Dr Inman writes with quite a measure of enthusiasm for talectomy and for open reduction and grafting for certain fractures of the calcaneus. In the same chapter the diagram of a Lambrinudi operation for drop-foot completely misses the point that a cave is fashioned in the navicular to take the forward end of the talus. For some strange reason Dr Du Vries does not mention simple curettage of a plantar wart, surely a most effective method of treatment. Dr Roger Mann employs a dorsal incision rather than a plantar for resection of a plantar digital "neuroma", which gives no opportunity for inspection of the local vasculature that is primarily at fault, and far less chance of discovering other lesions such as a cyst arising from a flexor tendon sheath. Despite such inevitable differences, some needless repetition of text and illustrations and a weak index, there can be no doubt that this third edition is a mine of information. It should find a place in every library well enough equipped to enable most of the references to be followed up.—Karl NISSEN.

Materials and Design Considerations for the Attachment of Prostheses to the Musculo-skeletal System. Clemson University's Fourth Annual Biomaterials Symposium held at Clemson University, South Carolina, April 3–7, 1972. Edited by S. F. HULBERT, S. N. LEVINE and D. D. MOYLE. 23.5 × 15.5 cm. Pp. xii + 465, with many figures and some tables. Index. 1973. An Interscience Publication. New York, London, Sydney, Toronto: John Wiley & Sons. Price £9.

This book is a selection of the papers presented at the Fourth Clemson University Biomaterial Symposium in April 1972. It will be of great interest to research workers in this field and should be available in all biomechanical laboratories. Emphasis in this volume is on the "bio-acceptance" of expanded surfaces in effecting permanent bonds with osseous tissues. Ceramic materials receive particular attention, as do vitreous carbon and titanium and Vitallium in the form of metal fibres. The range of subjects handled in this volume is too great to permit a useful review, and perusal of this work will be obligatory for all research workers in this field. All these papers are of course incomplete, being interim reports at various stages of research projects.—John CHARNLEY.