Reviews

THE FOOT AND THE ANKLE.—By Philip Lewin. Third Edition. 1947. Henry Kimpton, London. Pp. 847, with 389 illustrations. Price, 55s.

THE author has taken great pains in getting together authoritative views dealt with in the different sections. Besides dealing with the deformities he has stressed the neurological factors accompanying or resulting from them which is a distinct advance on the knowledge of deformities. His description of mechanical appliances, plastering and shoe-fitting should be of great help to orthopaedic surgeons as well as the general practitioner.

L. M. B.

SURGICAL TREATMENT OF THE SOFT TISSUES.—Edited by F. W. Bancroft and G. A. Humphreys. 1946. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London. Pp. xiv plus 520, with 244 illustrations. Price, £4-10-0

It is surprising how so many different subjects can be dealt with in a single volume, dealing with soft tissues. Every aspect of the treatment has been authoritatively dealt with and explained clearly with experience behind it which makes it so valuable. The section on plastic surgery is informative while that on burns contains almost all well-known measures fully criticized and approved. It adds to one's confidence in having a volume like this close at hand and reference to it in all cases will reveal helpful measures where they are needed. The added bibliography is generous in all the sections.

L. M. B.

THE ESSENTIALS OF MODERN SURGERY.—By R. M. Handfield Jones and A. E. Porritt. Third Edition. 1948. E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh. Pp. xix plus 1256, with 644 illustrations, many in colour. Price, 50s. Postage, 1s. 1d. (home)

A POST-WAR edition of this book has now appeared and in it is incorporated the valuable experiences gained during the war. It is very difficult to limit the scope of a textbook on surgery within reasonable bounds and the temptation to include subjects allied to surgery is great. This book has steered clear of these temptations and has embodied in it all that is required in a textbook and the different sections having been written by different and well-known authors give the book an authoritative value. There are one or two printing errors which will no doubt be corrected in a future edition. We can confidently commend this book to those for whom it is intended.

L. M. B.

SYNOPSIS OF OBSTETRICS.—By J. C. Litzenberg, B.Sc., M.D., F.A.C.S. Third Edition. 1947. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis. Pp. 416, with 157 illustrations including 5 in colour. Price, \$5.50

PROFESSOR LITZENBERG's book has been a well-known treatise on obstetrics—useful to advanced students and practitioners. The additions to the third edition include (1) a clear and compact summary of latest laboratory tests of pregnancy, (2) a concise and comprehensive summary of the modern ideas of the relation of Rh factor to pregnancy.

The book is packed with information of all sorts. It is difficult to single out any one chapter for special praise. The book has been styled as a 'Synopsis', but the subject-matter has been dealt with in such easy descriptive style that it can well merit the appellation of a book of reference.

Throughout the text an attempt has consistently been made to acquaint the reader with latest ideas of the subjects under discussion. Occasionally didactic style has been introduced without any attempt to let

the reader choose for himself as to the best lines for treatment. As an example, on page 177 in connection with the treatment of diseases complicating pregnancy it has been said 'In short, ignore the pregnancy and treat the disease'. This is well appreciated.

There are certain statements abruptly made, which may not be accepted by all obstetricians. In connection with treating a case of vesicular mole, it has been said 'The uterus is best emptied from below'. Bartholinitis has been mentioned as a common complication in the puerperium. On page 105 it has been said that a finger in the vagina can demonstrate the laxity of pelvic joints when the woman walks. It is difficult to comprehend how this can be practicable. The printing and the illustrations are excellent. In short the book will continue to be appreciated by persons for whom it is meant.

M. S.

MANAGEMENT IN OBSTETRIC COMPLICATIONS.—Edited by Clifford B. Lull, M.D. 1945. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London. Pp. vii plus 235. Illustrated. Price, 24s.

THIS book contains contributions by several authors. The subjects include all ordinary complications associated with pregnancy. The editor states in the preface that these contributions embody critical and concise reviews of current advances in the management of the most serious and frequent obstetric problems. He further states that such a review will be of particular use to war-returned obstetricians and practitioners who could not keep in touch with modern advance on the subjects discussed.

We feel that the editor's object has been more than fulfilled in perhaps half of the contributions though in few others it has been frustrated partially if not completely.

The first article is on the toxæmias of pregnancy. A very detailed summary of the subject along with case reports has been given. It is very difficult to follow what the author intends to state. In fact this subject, because of its essential theoretical nature, has never been popular with the practitioner who fails to get anything new to help him in the actual bedside treatment of a patient.

The next article on ectopic pregnancy has been written in a very practical fashion. It is teeming with information for every one interested in the subject. The same can be said about the two subsequent articles, viz, one on abortions and the other on third stage complications. The treatise on 'Surgical Complications of Pregnancy', even though written by a master hand, contains ordinary information. It is difficult to find the master's stamp throughout the twenty-three pages of the article. The case records are, however, very illuminating and instructive. The article on puerperal infection is just ordinary. Vague statements are included. As an example on page 167 it is stated 'Fever was twice as prevalent among those receiving cathartics'. 'A simple procedure resulting in lower morbidity is the use of sulpha powder on all perineal pads'. One might ask—what cathartic—which sulpha powder. This is where the war-returned obstetrician will be 'hindered' and not 'helped' in the quest of modern knowledge.

There is a short but very practical article on the management of abnormal presentations. The editor would have done well to illustrate some of the manipulations to refresh the memories of those for whom the book is meant.

Every practitioner would do well to have this book on his shelf for ready information about the usual problems he has to face during his practice. The printing and the get-up of the book are both excellent. One special feature of the book is that at the end of each chapter there is an elaborate list of reference books consulted. A seeker after further information is very grateful to the authors for providing him with such elaborate bibliography.

M. S.