The book should find its best supporters among junior house surgeons beginning a specialist career. The practical side is stressed and while selected lines of treatment only are described these are given with clarity and precision. General practitioners requiring a succinct guide to the possibilities of modern orthopaedic surgery will find this book a readable and reliable guide. The x-ray reproductions are good and well chosen and none are indistinct. The author has avoided a redundancy of rare and peculiar specimens more suited to a monograph than a general handbook. Some of the outline drawings are crude and at least one in the peripheral nerve section is inaccurate. The price, 21s., is somewhat high.

H. R. H.

BODY MECHANICS: IN THE STUDY AND TREATMENT OF DISEASE.—By J. E. Goldthwait, M.D., LL.D., L. T. Brown, M.D., L. T. Swalm, M.D., and J. G. Kuhns, M.D. Second Edition. 1937. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London. Pp. xiv plus 293, with 100 illustrations. Price, 18s. Obtainable from Messrs. Butterworth and Company (India), Limited, Calcutta. Price, Rs. 13-8

MUCH attention has been paid in recent years to 'body mechanics' in the study and treatment of disease. Body mechanics has been defined by the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, 'as the mechanical correlation of the various systems of the body with special reference to the skeletal, muscular and visceral systems and their neurological association'. In the present volume, this important subject has been carefully discussed with the hope that in the better understanding of the special structure and physiology of the individual, the solution of the problem of chronic disease will be largely found. The condition of poor muscular tone and faulty carriage is seen not only in childhood but in all periods of life. During the world war, we are told, no less than 46 per cent of the young men of Massachusetts were considered unfit for active service.

The book under review consists of fourteen chapters of which the first three deal with general considerations of 'body mechanics'. In the next chapter the three familiar body types are discussed, due regard being paid to the differences of susceptibility to disease. In the four succeeding chapters, important subjects, such as backache, arthritis, diseases of the abdominal viscera, and of the circulatory and nervous systems, are considered from the aspect of 'body mechanics'. Two chapters are devoted to treatment which include planned exercises, retentive apparatus and muscle re-education. Some illustrative cases are briefly recorded and these will be found of interest. The two concluding chapters deal with visceral disturbances and also public health aspects of body mechanics.

It is, in fact, a book to read and ponder over. But it suffers from one great defect of having been written with such manifest enthusiasm as is likely to be mistaken for rank partisanship, akin to fanaticism. The authors have been led to ascribe to faulty body mechanics, the origin, in part at least, of malignant disease of the genital organs in the female (p. 47) and prostatic enlargement in the male (p. 115). They believe 'that faulty body mechanics with its increased demands upon the energy of the motor tracts, and with accompanying congestion of the cord, may play a part in the onset and development of the muscular atrophies' (p. 153). There is one inexplicable omission in that there is no reference to the baneful effects of modern footwear, particularly in the case of the female. The book has been written in clear and simple language, but there are some rather unfamiliar terms, such as 'mechanistic features', 'acute medicine', 'visceroptotic existence', etc. The printing, get-up and illustrations are excellent and the bibliography is exhaustive. The book is dedicated to the chronic patient.

P. N. R.

A MANUAL OF OBSTETRICS.—By T. W. Eden, M.D., C.M. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.C.O.G., and E. Holland, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.C.O.G. Eighth Edition. 1937. J. and A. Churchill, Limited, London. Pp. xii plus 765, with 12 plates and 398 illustrations in the text. Price, 24s.

EDEN'S *A Manual of Obstetrics* has been a 'classic' for over 30 years. As one cannot criticize it and yet hesitates to praise it, beyond saying that it maintains its own high standard in its eighth edition, for fear of appearing to patronize two of London's leading obstetricians, one is compelled to record additions and changes and in doing this one cannot do better than quote from the preface.

In part I simplification of the sections on sex-physiology has been made possible by the work of the past five years on the chemical purification of the ovarian hormones and, in general, on the endocrine control of reproduction. The section on antenatal care has been amplified and made more practical, and modern views on diet during pregnancy are discussed.

In part II the section on the anemias of pregnancy has been rewritten; so also has the section on pyelitis of pregnancy, in the light of radiological and therapeutical discoveries. The section on abortion contains the new work on endocrine and dietetic factors.

The sections on the aseptic conduct of labour and on obstetrical anaesthesia have both been expanded. Ergometrine comes in here—a drug of fundamental importance, which should replace the less safe posterior pituitary extract for routine post-partum use.

In part V (the puerperium) the new work on the sources and treatment of puerperal infections is probably of more fundamental importance than anything else in obstetrics during the last few years. This section has been almost entirely rewritten, and I believe everything of merit, including the grouping of the hæmolytic streptococci and chemotherapy by the prontosil group of drugs, will be found incorporated. Obstetric shock receives the attention it deserves.

In the treatment of asphyxia neonatorum the methods of artificial respiration have rightly fallen more and more into the background, whereas treatment by intratracheal insufflation has become more and more prominent.

Cæsarean section has been almost entirely rewritten and re-illustrated. The classical operation has been treated with the respect it merits; but the lower segment operation, which is slowly but surely rising into first place, has been given more space and a new set of illustrations.

We will conclude by saying that we hope that his 'Eden' will still remain the bible of the present-day medical student: practitioners will find sufficient important changes in this book to justify the investment in a new edition.

TEXTBOOK OF GYNÆCOLOGY.—By W. Shaw, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.C.O.G. Second Edition. 1938. J. and A. Churchill, Limited, London. Pp. viii plus 616, with 4 plates in colour and 253 text-figures. Price, 18s.

THE first edition of this book was published only two years ago and met with the immediate success that it deserved. The author is a teacher at one of London's leading hospitals and knows what the student needs. In his treatment of the subject he is both precise and concise without necessarily being dogmatic, and though the book is not an exhaustive treatise, the subject is covered quite sufficiently for the M.B. student and for the general practitioner.

A new chapter in this edition is the one on hormonal therapy. Ten years hence it may be easy to write such a chapter; at present it is difficult on account of the many gaps and uncertainties in our knowledge of the action of most hormones. They have a habit of 'doing those things they ought not to do and leaving undone those things they ought to do'; as for example, though progesterin is indicated theoretically in dysmenorrhœa, in practice it is of little use, and, conversely, it is sometimes helpful in menorrhagia