Book reviews

Joint Injuries of the Hand. By RICHARD G. EATON, M.D. Illustrated by J. WILLIAM LITTLER. 1971. Pp. 80, 40 figs. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. U.S.A. (\$13.50)

This book is well illustrated and expensively produced. It is intended as a guide to surgeons and medical officers in casualty departments. It would be incorrect for a physician to comment on the orthopaedic details and advice in this book, but I imagine that many hand surgeons would like to read it, particularly to see the excellent illustrations drawn by Dr. J. William Littler. The book is obviously not intended for rheumatologists and it is doubtful whether any would want to study it. The only possible exceptions might be those who have a particular interest in rheumatic hands, who might find some clues to the development of deformities. For those who believe that too much emphasis has been placed on damage to bone and cartilage, the first words of the book would be particularly welcome: 'Deprived of its ligaments, the skeleton dislocates; its form and the power of its muscles negated.'

D. A. BREWERTON

Total Hip Replacement. Edited by MALCOLM JAYSON, with a Foreword by JOHN CHARNLEY. 1971. Pp. 152, 71 figs. Sector Publishing Ltd., London (£3.60)

The time has now come to stand back and survey the contemporary scene of replacement hip surgery. A great deal has, of course, already been written, but this book provides within its covers and in the space of only 150 pages, authoritative accounts of methods now popular in Great Britain, together with much other information that can help the reader to form his own judgement.

Just over a third of the text is devoted to detailed descriptions of the Charnley, McKee-Farrar, and Ring prostheses, their development, operative technique, and results. Each account is well-illustrated and is presented with numerous sub-headings which certainly help to maintain the attention of the tired reader.

Emphasizing the Editor's breadth of vision is the selection of his five other chapters. I must draw attention to the last—an excellent little account from the Rheumatology Department of the London Hospital on the sexual

problems resulting from hip disease and how they may be influenced by hip replacement surgery.

Mr. Charnley, although not the author of the section devoted to his eponymous operation, contributes a foreword which puts the whole problem in perspective as only a master can do. How grateful we all are to him for all that he has done in this field. He mentions, in particular, the enormous potential surgical work-load that the advent of satisfactory joint replacement will create, and singles out for attention the problems of surgical training and the conditions of sterility that will be required. He might also perhaps have added the shortage of beds for such work which is already so evident.

The development of modern hip surgery is traced by Philip Newman who, no doubt with some pride although with no undue emphasis, describes the early work of his late colleague at The Middlesex Hospital, Philip Wiles, who, in 1938, was the first to design and use a total replacement hip prosthesis. Pride of place, however, it seems must go to Westminster Hospital where there is an account of a form of arthroplasty having been performed on the hip in 1822.

Various forms of inflammatory arthritis affecting the hip and their experiences in total joint replacement, are described by George Arden and Barbara Ansell—their extensive experience of hip replacement in the young is particularly interesting.

As one would expect, the contribution from the Biomedical Engineering Department at The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital gives all the biomechanical details that even the most searching reader may require. The fact that I understood most of it reflects not so much, I think, my own powers of comprehension, as the author's lucidity. I cannot, at this stage, resist a little twist of the Boffin's tail by telling them that 'cement' does not, in fact, 'contract on hardening', as they state, but in practice expands a little—presumably due to entrapped minute bubbles of air.

Finally, there is an excellent chapter full of practical details on lubrication and its problems from the Bio-engineering Group at Leeds.

My outline of the contents of this excellent book can give but a glimpse of its value. I think it is first-class, and Dr. Jayson deserves acclaim from his colleagues, not only for producing it, but particularly for his vision in conceiving it.

RODNEY SWEETNAM

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