

Book review

Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology. Edited by J. Delcher, R. de Marneffe and E. Vander Elst. Co-editor David Le Vay. 1973. Proceedings of the 12th Congress of the International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, Tel Aviv, October 9–12, 1972. Pp. 1155, 447 figs, 12 plates, 97 tab., indices. Elsevier Excerpta Medica, Amsterdam (275 Dutch fl).

This 1155 page account of the Proceedings of the 12th Congress of the International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, held in Tel Aviv in 1972, indicates a little of the almost circus nature of so many of these gigantic international meetings.

The papers—some published in full, some in abstract form, some with illustrations and charts, some without—indicate the almost Herculean and impossible task of trying to record everything which was presented and the work from everybody who was there.

The majority of the papers are in English. Every possible anatomical region was considered—the spine, hip, knee, foot, shoulder, hand—down to the carpo-metacarpal joint. There are relatively few papers covering rheumatological disease except from the orthopaedic point of view; artificial hip joint replacement, rheumatoid hand pathology etc., were some of the symposia headings and each was supported by about 20 contributions. Some of the work was not new and has been published elsewhere since the meeting. This detracts somewhat from this book being used as a reference source. However, there were some

new ideas but these will be most valuable to those who actually heard the papers at the meeting, and therefore will know where to look for them.

Although the title is of orthopaedic surgery and traumatology—the latter subject received much fewer contributions in comparison. This reflects the increasing problem of how little research is being carried out in traumatology. There were major symposia on tendon injuries and on repair of peripheral nerve injuries and a free paper section on fractures, and a round table section on traumatic injuries to the limbs.

I believe that the real value of this publication is as a record of events and of present day concepts in orthopaedics and traumatology as expressed by international surgeons, some physicians and research workers. As a reference it would provide a starting point both for the names of workers in the field and for some of the world literature. The printing and the actual publication are impeccable.

Unfortunately at the price of £44, this cannot be considered a 'good buy' for the majority of medical libraries, and of course not for the private individual. The members of the Society—especially those who were there, are the fortunate ones because this huge book was included 'in the ticket', and will remind us of meeting our international friends, and how common to all are our clinical problems. A more generous idea would be for us to donate it to our medical libraries for use by post-graduates.

R. B. DUTHIE

Note

Professor J. J. R. Duthie, Dr. A. G. F. Hill, and Dr. M. Thompson have retired from the Editorial Committee of the *Annals*. We should like to express our appreciation to them for their services to the Journal. They have been

replaced by Dr. B. M. Ansell, M.R.C. Rheumatism Unit, Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow; Dr. A. G. Mowat, The Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford; and Dr. B. Vernon-Roberts, The London Hospital.