skilled to semi-skilled work between the ages of 20 and 22 may represent, also, the effect of lack of wage differentials. The grading between skilled and unskilled work is often difficult to assess. A much higher proportion of those rejected for National Service were performing unskilled work at 17 and 22.

In view of the fact that many boys take apprenticeships with a minimum of preparation or selection it might be argued that the failure rate is really remarkably low, especially when it is remembered that the failure rate of carefully selected and prepared students for university courses varies from 13% to over 20%.

It is interesting that the proportion of men convicted of crimes, whether accepted or rejected for Service, rose steeply as the level of scholastic ability declined, and was closely associated with the standard of home and housing. It is a pity that convictions between the ages of 8 and 22 are combined because many will commit a crime at the earlier age and not at the later. In short there are so many factors to be taken into consideration and these are so inter-connected that it is a very difficult, if not impossible, task to evaluate them in detail. It is therefore not altogether unexpected that the groups should fail to show appreciable differences. No mention is made of the effect of the introduction in 1950 of the three-year engagement system which enabled lads to obtain a selected training in the Forces. During the years under review the war in Korea and Malaya was causing concern to parents, and many parents and employers did much to hinder and little to help the lads to make the best of their Service. Pre-Service courses can be most valuable. It is possible that an up-to-date survey might show appreciably different results. Rather than compiling a large amount of statistics, which makes the text in places hard to follow, it is possible that more could be gained by a personal assessment of individual cases taken on a random sample basis.

However, the book contains many valuable points for reference and will, undoubtedly, be of value to anyone interested in the problems of youth.

M. E. M. Herford


The first edition of this epic was published in 1929 and the fourth English edition of 1935 only contained 567 pages. Now, 20 years later, comes the next English translation and it is very welcome. Professor Böhler’s early works were unique as he had unrivalled experience in fractures and talked with an authority that could not be contradicted. This edition is very similar to the old one except in its size, for this is the first of three volumes and extends to 1,072 pages.

The chapter on open injuries consists largely of his war experiences and little mention is made of penicillin; thus it is out of date. His treatment of closed fractures has not changed very much and many of the illustrations are the same as in the first edition, but his methods are still sound and show how good results can be obtained without excessive operative interference. His liking, however, for local anaesthesia cannot now be accepted as a satisfactory substitute for a general anaesthetic. I am pleased that he still advocates the use of unpadded plasters.

In spite of the increase in size the spirit of the old “Böhler” is still evident and we can find sound common sense which should be studied by the younger generation. One may not always agree with the treatment of individual types of fracture but if his principles are followed then fractures will be very well treated and results will be excellent.

J. Craw