The chapter on infections deals with the more common conditions and their treatment. The author favours general anaesthesia, although local anaesthesia can be safely used for distal infections. Bed rest is ideal, but unfortunately accommodation in hospital is not always available for all hand infections. Tuberculosis of the hand is fully discussed. Accepted methods in the treatment of fractures and dislocations are well described.

The primary treatment of open injuries and skin cover by grafting is given well-deserved emphasis and the author has done a service in presenting so clearly the need to regard good skin cover as top priority in treatment.

This book is well illustrated and easily read, and reviews, in relatively few pages, the modern treatment of the hand, particularly in regard to injury.

It can be read with benefit by surgeons and hand surgeons.

Stewart Harrison


This small book is one of those rare gems of common sense which cannot fail to absorb the interest of those who read it. It will prove of particular benefit to senior medical students, senior nurses, house surgeons, and especially to those often overworked young men who for the most part run our casualty departments. But no doctor who has to do with head injuries at any stage will regret the hour or two spent in reading through this little work.

The book is set out in orderly sequence of management: the casualty department, the ward, complications, convalescence, and rehabilitation, ending with three short appendices. At each stage the observations necessary and the practical steps to be taken are stated, and the reasons why they are important made quite clear. Esoteric descriptions of pathology and neurology in head injuries have been avoided, but the warning signs of impending serious complication are lucidly explained and the action required indicated with clarity.

Of especial interest to readers of this journal is the short final chapter on convalescence, rehabilitation, and sequelae. Here all the salient problems of after care in relation to occupation are discussed with masterly economy of words.

There is very little to criticize. The early establishment of a clear airway in the unconscious patient could perhaps be better emphasized. Some reference to brain stem compression at the tentorium, and to the reasons why lumbar puncture can be dangerous would perhaps have been useful elaborations.

Mr. Potter's style is everywhere most readable and concise. Among his acknowledgements he notes his affection for the work of Percival Pott, and running through the pages of this book there is discernible the same practical good sense that characterizes the writings of that great surgeon.

B. J. Harries