ditioner and is one of the senior consulting obstetricians and gynaecologists in the Royal Free Hospital Group of hospitals. Her experience is enormous.

The language Miss Landau uses in her book is simple, concise and very easy indeed to read. The book is, perhaps, rather on the short side but that is not a great disadvantage.

It is worthwhile reading for anyone who wishes to know what to say to the menopausal patient, and it can very safely be recommended to the patient to buy to read herself.

The only slight adverse criticism is, does the menopause really start at 40? E.S.

PRINCIPLES OF RENAL PHYSIOLOGY

There has long been a need for an introduction to renal physiology of this kind, and Homer Smith has written a little masterpiece that is a worthy successor to his brilliant early book 'The Physiology of the Kidney.' The same clear, authoritative style of writing will be found here, the same admirable power of succinct summary.

The book includes an interesting section on electron microscopy (with eight illustrations) and a very valuable practical appendix on the measurement of renal clearances, with full details of reliable chemical methods. A number of problems is given for students, and there is a selected bibliography.

The printing is distinctly displeasing and there are a high quota of misprints. These are the only flaws in an excellent book which is both a theoretical introduction to the subject and a very practical guide to the clinical biochemistry of renal investigation.

POTT'S PARAPLEGIA

In pooling their knowledge and experience to make this book, the three authors have produced a most thoughtful and comprehensive study which does much to sweep away confused thinking on the subject of Pott's Paraplegia.

Seddon's series of 175 cases has provided most of the information on which the chapters concerning clinical and pathological features and prognosis are based. Starting from this sound foundation, the authors proceed to consider the evolution of operative treatment and go on from there to consider in detail the operative methods which they have used in their large series of cases. They conclude with a careful review of their operative results followed by a short and very modest statement of their recommendations.

As was to be expected, the chief proposition advanced is that of the superiority of antero-lateral decompression over other methods of operative treatment. The evidence supporting this proposition is so good that it is unlikely ever to be seriously questioned, and at the same time it strongly supports the authors' suggested indications for operation. Although the possible effect on treatment and prognosis of the introduction of antibiotics cannot be assessed from the material studied, it is unlikely that it will alter materially the basic propositions stated here.

The care with which the great mass of available material has been sifted and arranged has made the book very easily readable. The style of the writing is simple, concise and clear, this clarity being specially shown in the description of the technique of antero-lateral decompression, which is a model of its kind. The text, supported by good tables, charts and plates, carries the argument smoothly and logically forward to its conclusion. The analysis has been carefully used so as to support the argument without interrupting it.

The authors are very much to be congratulated on the production of this classic monograph and on the work which led to its production. The book should certainly be read by all whose interest is advance in orthopaedic surgery, but it is also a model which should be studied by all workers in clinical research.

G.B.

THE BILIARY TRACT

This is a well-written book, with excellent illustrations, upon a most important branch of abdominal surgery. The early chapters on anatomy and physiology of the biliary tract are valuable in that they contain a large amount of useful and, to some extent, original information presented in a most concise and readable fashion. This is a refreshing change from so many monographs in which it is held essential to include basic anatomy and physiology, which interest the authors only sufficiently for them to copy classical descriptions.

The clinical material is well-balanced and well-presented. The author achieves a collection from the literature of 66 cases of pancreatitis and 60 methods of treatment but, instead of a prolonged discussion, dismisses the latter list with the sentence 'This is almost absurd.' (One hopes that 'almost' will be deleted in the next edition.) Following this catalogue there is a good regime for the treatment of pancreatitis in the light of present knowledge.

There are several points for criticism. The section on bile peritonitis could be amplified with benefit, while a list of all the instruments and ligatures needed to carry out a choledochotomy,
down to a specification of the skin sutures, seems unnecessary. The section dealing with the important subject of common duct strictures describes well the operative methods but does not discuss the prognosis nor the significance of cholangitis in this condition.

This is a useful book which is well worth reading by all who practise abdominal surgery. It is, furthermore, readable. It is a pity that there are a few slightly inadequate sections in a book of this price but these are to some extent compensated by the excellent bibliography.

A MANUAL OF PRACTICAL OBSTETRICS

This book falls between several stools. It tries to be a book on practical obstetrics and at the same time to enter into many theoretical considerations. As a consequence, it loses its value as a work of practical advice or as a textbook of obstetrics. In addition, there are a number of lapses. For instance, the writer appears to recommend that the second stage of labour in a primigravida should be allowed to last three hours before interference is indicated and he thinks that the head is not likely to have appeared between the labia for two hours.

He recommends Credé's technique in the third stage of labour which most authorities now warn against because of the likelihood of producing shock.

Drawings are shown of how to plug the uterus, which again should not be taught too facilely. As chapter succeeds chapter, one can find similar criticisms. In fact, by and large, I do not think this book is to be recommended.

E.E.P.

ANATOMICAL TECHNIQUES

This book contains an account of many of the more recent techniques which are used for the preparation and mounting of macroscopic anatomical specimens for a museum. The principal techniques described are those of dissection, the making of perspex containers, and the preparation of casts in synthetic resins of blood vessels, the ventricles of the brain and other cavities. There is a short but useful chapter on the illustration of anatomical dissections, and Miss Jessie Dobson provides an interesting historical introduction. Although designed for anatomical specimens, most of the techniques described would be of equal value in the preparation and mounting of pathological material.

The methods are those which Dr. Tompsett has developed in recent years at the Royal College of Surgeons, and those who have seen the very beautiful and instructive specimens which have been added to the anatomical collection at the College will be in no doubt about their value and effectiveness. They are described in great detail, with no attempt to conceal the difficulties, or to underestimate the patience and skill which are necessary to produce really first-class results. More important perhaps is the fact that there is no concealment of the many small but essential steps of a practical nature which must be followed meticulously if success is to be achieved. A most useful feature, often lacking in books of this kind, is a list of sources from which all the instruments, materials or apparatus used, can be obtained.

The book is a notable addition to the literature of craftsmanship; it will be invaluable to museum curators and technicians, and of considerable general interest to anyone who uses an anatomical or pathological museum.

MODERN VIEWS ON THE SECRETION OF URINE
The Cushny Memorial Lectures

To commemorate the work of Prof. A. R. Cushny (who held the Chair of Pharmacology at University College, London, from 1905 to 1918) ten lectures were delivered there in 1955 by distinguished speakers. Of these, eight are either still working in the College or in U.C.H., or have done so in the past.

This book, therefore, very largely represents an indirect tribute to a great man by workers both in the field and in the school in which his leadership was inspiring. The lectures deal with both physiological and clinical aspects of renal function. Very complete reviews of recent work on the mechanism of normal urine formation are given by Dicker, Eggleton and Pickford. Prof. Winton contributes an important chapter on Pressures and Flows in the Kidney, and L. E. Bayliss describes Secretion. (This would have interested Cushny most of all!) Clinicians will find the very able reviews of Nabarro (The influence of the adrenal cortex) and of Prof. Rosenheim (Functional aspects of Renal Failure) most valuable. A very interesting chapter by Harris deals with Genetic aspects of Tubular Function—much of this work has come from other workers at U.C.H., notably Prof. Dent. (Surely congenital pitressin—sensitive diabetes insipidus is rare enough to merit a reference!) Prof. McCance and E. M. Widdowson (Metabolism and Renal Function in the First Two Days of Life) and Prof. Bull (Osmotic Diuresis