ophthalmology: it is equally successful here. Five chapters are devoted successively to endocrine disease, diabetes, circulatory disorders, neurological disease and dermatology (including of course problems in the toe nails). The links are well made, indeed perhaps too well made, and some pruning of the contents would not have detracted from the book's value. Many pictures are of the associated conditions and I wonder if these are all really necessary. Cardiac failure is of course a cause of swollen feet, but is this atlas the appropriate place for pictures of a chest X-ray with a large heart or of a raised jugular venous pressure? From page 135 onwards we have 5 pages with 23 pictures including two X-rays of the pituitary fossa, but only one picture of a foot – and that is the sweaty foot of thyrotoxicosis. Even in the section on diabetes the authors have included a full page of photographs of the eye, including two angiograms. This may be of greater value to the chiropodial student, but is unnecessary for most medical readers. These are small criticisms. This is a most valuable volume and will be greatly enjoyed.

J. Saunders
Neville Hall Hospital,
Abergavenny,
Gwent NP7 7EG.

Standard Orthopaedic Operations, fourth edition, J. Crawford Adams and C.A. Stossel. Pp. 485, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, Edinburgh, New York, Tokyo, 1992. Hardback £69.50.

This volume should be on the shelf of every orthopaedic trainee and in every hospital library. Complex procedures that are unlikely to be performed by the trainee are excluded. Operative techniques described include the Huckstep nail, but not the Huckstep hip; spinal fusion, but not the Steffee method; joint replacement, but not modular replacement for tumours; external fixation, but not the Ilizarov fixator.

The style is didactic, crafted by one of the most widely read of orthopaedic authors (J.C.A.) aided by a colleague in active clinical practice (C.A.S.). We are moving through to a stage of sub-specialization in orthopaedics when it will no longer be possible for one or two authors to hope to cover the whole range of techniques. For the time being, this volume remains unbeatable through the combination of price and the wide range of procedures covered, with line diagrams and simple practical instructions.

R. Coombs
Hammersmith Hospital,
Du Cane Road,
London W12 0HS.

Medicine in Europe, edited by T. Richards. Pp. 152, illustrated. BMJ, London, 1992. Paperback £8.95.

This is a collection of articles that were first published in the *BMJ* during 1992. It covers a broad spread of topics relevant to Europe with an emphasis on how the increas-

ing power of European legislation from 1993 might impinge upon healthcare patterns in each country. There is a challenging introduction by Hans Simons succinctly describing the forces for change in Europe.

'1992 and all that' by the editor offers a very helpful background for decision making which from Maastricht onwards will have a legal base. We are led from early decisions in 1975 (based on the directives of mutual recognition of diplomas) to the most recent on European Medicines Agency which came into effect in 1993. Legislative processes and the frustrations of dealing with eight different directorates which cover health, research, nutrition, pharmaceuticals set the scene excellently.

Thereafter, the challenges to the healthcare systems and the very significant changes planned by the EC for licensing, pricing, labelling and distribution of pharmaceutical products are described. Potential for harmonization of prescribing is considerable and this is an example of the opportunity which Europe offers to the 600,000 doctors in the Community.

There are chapters on public health, food and nutrition, alcohol, drugs and tobacco. Each explains the present position, by country and organization involved as well as future targets, and progress towards them. There are three significant chapters on medical manpower, medical education and 'who speaks for whom?' The first two demonstrate considerable contradictions in perceived quality of performance, length of training, numbers of medical undergraduates, and the independence of doctors within different healthcare systems. The last of the three describes the common pathways to the Council of Ministers, the European Commission, and the advisory committee machinery, which has the weaknesses of all multi-directorate organizations including poor communication, rivalry and duplicated effort.

There are chapters on equal opportunities, return to the pre-eminence of European research, on a common ethic for a common market and others on law and the social chapter. Finally, there is an overview of the way ahead. The Community will have much greater influence on health policy of individual countries as a result of incorporation of a new chapter in the Treaty of Rome. The Single Market will encourage medical tourism, convergence of provision and diversification from national patterns and boundaries.

After Maastricht, and from 1993 onwards, Europe will be in a climate of incentives rather than directives and this holds out promise of the health objectives and treatment standards becoming confluent across the community. This book makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of these changes.

M.W.N. Nicholls
British Postgraduate Medical Federation,
33 Millman Street,
London WC1N 3EJ.

Oxford Textbook of Pathology (Volume 2a and 2b), edited by James McGee, Peter Isaacson and Nicholas Wright. Pp. 1552, illustrated. Oxford University Press, 1992. Paperback £75.00.

Volume 2 of the *Oxford Textbook of Pathology* (divided into two parts, Volumes 2a and 2b) covers systemic