of the release of, or action of, the chemical mediators of inflammation. The final chapter on "Toxicology" is of particular interest to clinicians. In therapeutic doses, aspirin causes toxic effects, due to hypersensitivity. Under this heading, Smith brilliantly reviews the enormous amount of work which has been done on the mechanism of the lesion responsible for gastro-intestinal bleeding following salicylate therapy. In toxic doses, salicylate poisoning causes an average death rate of approximately four per million persons in England and Wales, and approximately three thousand admissions to hospital every year. It is a favourite mode of suicide and a common medical emergency. In infants, hyperthermia and disorders of acid-base regulation predominate; in adults and older children one sees the more familiar hyperventilation and alkalosis followed by hepatic and renal damage and bleeding disease. The book closes with a summary of the methods of treatment available to correct the biochemical abnormalities of salicylate poisoning and to force the elimination of the drug from the body, either by increased renal excretion or by extra-renal techniques, including exchange transfusion, peritoneal dialysis, and the artificial kidney.

This book, like its distinguished predecessor, should remain the standard work of reference for another 19 years.

A. ST. J. DIXON

Rheumatology: An Annual Review. Edited by J. ROTSTEIN. 1967. Pp. 243, 35 figs, 14 tables. Karger, Basel. (Sw.Fr./D.Mk 55).

One of the most difficult problems facing a worker in any branch of medicine is that of keeping up to date with progress in practice and research. Within his own field this is of course mandatory if he is to achieve and maintain his individual standard of competence, but it is becoming increasingly desirable to acquire as wide and as critical an outlook as possible upon the various basic sciences which have a bearing on his work. This means much more reading than most of us can manage and we have a rising output of Abstracts, Summaries, Reviews, Synopses, Recent Advances, Modern Trends, Current Progresses, Reports of Colloquia and Symposia, and so on. The number of these is now becoming formidable, and the digests are themselves causing dyspepsia.

Room must, however, be made for "Rheumatology, an Annual Review". It is the first of a series which is planned to extend over a period of years in an attempt to provide the rheumatologist and his allied workers with "a readily available critical discussion and complete bibliography in areas of

established endeavour which are of current interest", as Dr. Rotstein remarks in his introduction. The subjects selected in this volume are the structure and function of lysosomes (G. Weismann), the role of lysosomes in rheumatic disease (D. P. Page Thomas), mycoplasmas and rheumatic disease (J. T. Sharp and S. Riggs), experimental arthritis in rats (G. Jasmin), the subcellular control of protein biosynthesis (J. L. Starr), and immunologically-induced models of connective tissue disease (P. Stastny and C. M. Ziff).

It is true that some of these subjects are of a very general biological nature with no specific relation to rheumatic disorders in particular, while others of them may in time be shown to have less relevance to human disease than is thought at present. Nevertheless this is a valuable book for the rheumatologist because the topics are interesting and important and they are presented by experts in an authoritative and concise manner. The bibliography contains nearly 1,100 recent reference, and the book will no doubt be the first of a very successful series.

J. T. SCOTT

Bréviaire de rhumatologie à l'usage du praticien (Synopsis of Rheumatology for the Practitioner). Edited by S. DE SÈZE and M. CAROIT. 3rd ed., 1967. Pp. 674, 254 figs. Expansion Scientifique Français, Paris.

Despite the word "Bréviaire" in the title, this book is, in its third edition, almost a text book. There are chapters describing the commoner variety of inflammatory rheumatism, but most of the book—and in this it differs from the text-book approach—is taken up with chapters dealing with individual practical clinical problems: the painful hand, the diagnosis of low back ache, acroparaesthesia in the arm, meralgia paraesthetica, the treatment of sciaticas, bone diseases likely to masquerade as "rheumatism", etc., etc. It is well illustrated and clearly set out.

A. ST. J. DIXON

L'ostéochondrose synovial (Ostéochondromatose d'Henderson). (Synovial Osteochondrosis (Osteochondromatosis of Henderson).) By M. DE PONTVILLE, C. PERREAU, F. CABANNE, and G. PIGANIOL, with a preface by F. COSTE. 1966. Pp. 132, 62 figs. Masson, Paris. (Frs 34).

The authors begin by broadening the definition of osteochondromatosis to include all intra-articular loose bodies where there is no evidence of previous trauma, arthrosis, or osteochondritis dissecans. They believe, with good evidence, that all gradations