An otherwise excellent book is marred by incorrect references. The reviewer knows that Prof. Flatt has mistakenly attributed a paper presented by Dr. Kay to the Amsterdam meeting (pp. 194). A controlled study of extensor synovectomy (pp. 190) has also been incorrectly attributed. It is hoped that the rest of the references in this monograph are more accurate.

A. KATES

Die Operative Behandlung der progressiv chronischen Polyarthritis. By NORBERT GSCHWEND, edited by A. Böni and K. Vainio. 1968. Pp. 219, 207 figs (65 col.). Thieme, Stuttgart. (DM 98).

Interest in the surgery of rheumatoid arthritis has been developing rapidly in the Anglo-Saxon countries and, at a slightly slower rate, in the German-speaking ones. In 1959, a well-known German orthopaedic textbook devoted barely two pages to changes in the rheumatoid hand. Now Dr. Gschwend has produced the first work in German on surgery in this disease. His survey covers the surgery of the upper and lower extremities in a little over 200 pages and embraces pathology, aim and method of operation, and indications and contraindications. The recent trend towards early synovectomy, especially of small joints, is enthusiastically upheld and old wives' tales about delayed healing after operation (with or without steroids)

are firmly scotched. Illustrated with many photographs and drawings, of which 65 are in superb colour, the book is of interest both to orthopaedic surgeons and to clinicians who, like so many sufferers from the disease, are apt to accept some gross deformities as inevitable. At the same time enthusiasm is tempered with caution and Dr. Gschwend has not failed to point out the possible side or late effects of certain procedures: endoprostheses in the fingers may result in local siderosis; chemical synovectomy, advocated by some eminent authorities, may cause permanent damage—and so on.

Inevitably, every first edition has its small quota of misprints and minor errors. For example, Syme (1799-1870) is quoted as having published his monograph on the excision of diseased joints in 1931 (p. 5), which is unlikely. The volume has an index and an extensive bibliography, but authors are grouped under different headings, such as "introduction", "operations on the hands", "operations on the knees", etc. Such a scheme avoids the use of the Harvard notation in the text, thereby saving space, but leads to reduplication in the index (or indices), where this notation is used. It is a question of choice.

The book should delight the eye of every rheumatologist; the price may not do so, as it is 98 DM in Germany.

DAVID PREISKEL