Book reviews

The Pathology of Rheumatoid Arthritis. By D. L. GARDNER. 1972. Pp. 259, figs. bibl., appendix. Arnold, London (£10)

This may be regarded as a specialized successor to Gardner's earlier book 'Pathology of the Connective Tissue Diseases'. The morbid anatomy is both comprehensive and detailed, and is largely based on the author's personal experience of some 140 autopsies on rheumatoid individuals and a large biopsy service. The many excellent photomicrographs include a high proportion of pictures taken by electron and scanning electron microscopy.

The detailed morbid anatomy is well supplemented by chapters on immunopathology and chemical pathology, but perhaps the most valuable feature of the book is a quite excellent account of the extra-articular lesions, closely followed in value by a description of associated conditions such as Sjögren's and Felty's syndromes, psoriatic arthropathy, and Still's disease. Strangely, no mention is made of the arthritis associated with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, although there is a brief discussion of the relationship between rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

Finally, the third largest chapter is devoted to pathogenesis and aetiology. This includes a critical appraisal of the considerable recent literature on infection as the prime cause and an attempt to relate such a primary agent to the manifest immunological features of the disease and its chronicity.

The production is of high quality with few misspellings and only an occasional omission from the extensive and invaluable bibliography of publications referred to in the text. More serious errors are even rarer, but the author has unfortunately misread some of my own experiments, so that subcutaneous implants of fibrin have become translocated into the knee joints. I have no quarrel, however, with his schema (Fig. 173) of the aetiology and pathogenesis of the disease, which shows a sequence of disturbances initiated by an infective agent and promoted

and maintained by secondary immunological phenomena.

This is an important contribution to the literature of rheumatoid arthritis. It is based on a wide experience of its pathology and an equally wide acquaintance with the literature. It is critical, informative, and easy to read, and is warmly recommended.

L. E. GLYNN

L'actualité rhumatologique 1971. Edited by S. DE SÈZE. 1972. Pp. 332, 64 figs. L'Expansion Scientifique, Paris (Frs 95)

This is the eighth consecutive annual review of Rheumatology produced by Professor de Sèze and his illustrious team of collaborators at the Centre Viggo Petersen in Paris. Like its predecessors it consists of some thirty short up-to-date accounts of a wide variety of topics written in a terse and informative manner and directed towards the general practitioner as well as those with a special interest in this field. It is the range of subjects discussed that reflects the wider spectrum of the interests of French rheumatologists as compared with many of their British and American counterparts. Thus we find represented, in addition to the many facets of inflammatory joint disease, sections devoted to calcium metabolism and neoplastic diseases of bone as well as a variety of local 'medical orthopaedic' conditions which are not infrequently sadly ignored by rheumatologists here. Though it is unlikely that this volume will be widely read in the English-speaking world because of the 'language barrier', this does not detract from the fact that a compact annual review of rheumatology in paper-back form meets a definite demand. No doubt an English equivalent, provided that it matched up to its French counterpart, could achieve comparable success.

R. GRAHAME