Maladies de la Colonne Vertébrale, Diagnostic et Traitement. By Jean Saidman. 1948. G. Doin et Cie. Paris. Two vols. with 1,244 pages, 1,324 figures, charts, and radiographs. Price: bound in one vol. 4,500 fr.; bound in two vols. 4,750 fr.

This work by a distinguished French radiologist is devoted to the study of spinal disorders but goes far beyond the mere reproduction and interpretation of radiographs; it discusses aetiology, pathology, clinical features, and methods of treatment. The rheumatologist will find it of interest and value, for it throws fresh light on many problems. The author remarks in the preface that the term "rheumatism" is, from the point of view of the nosologist, a drawer into which are thrown pell mell the clinical records which we cannot classify; from time to time the drawer is opened by some worker who picks out a few case notes and describes and differentiates them; and a new disease, or at least a symptom complex, is born. This is illustrated by the fact that no less than forty forms are described in the two chapters, "Affections ankylosantes" and "Rheumatismes déformantes". These chapters will be read with interest and advantage by all who are interested in the subject of spondylitis and in the many disorders to which the name "lumbago" is commonly given.

As with much of the medical literature from continental sources, there is scanty reference to the work of British and American authorities, which appears to be comparatively unknown, and it is to be hoped that the *Ligue Internationals contre le Rhumatisme* will help towards a wider outlook.

The book is excellently produced, and the illustrations are beautifully done. The author has a pleasant style, clear and graphic in description and easy to read.

C. W. BUCKLEY.

Arthritis and Related Conditions. By T. F. Bach. 1947. F. A. Davis Co. Philadelphia. Pp. 472; 139 illustrations. Price \$6.50 (30s.).

This further contribution to the literature of the Rheumatic diseases comprises chapters on the various aspects of the problem by distinguished authorities under the editorship of Dr. T. F. Bach, who took over the task on the death of the late Dr. Garfield Snyder, who originally planned it. Designed primarily for the general practitioner, it is likely to be found of more value to the advanced student than as a handbook for guidance in general practice. The opening chapters, on the approach to the arthritic problem, and that on the historical aspect will be read with interest. Three chapters are devoted to diagnosis, and focal infection is exhaustively dealt with; much importance is attached to defective function of the digestive tract.

Treatment receives full consideration on sound practical lines, and simple methods of physical treatment available in the patient's home are well described. There is a useful chapter on functional disorders of the feet, and the article on x rays in treatment is the best we have

met with. The book is well produced and the illustrations are numerous and of excellent quality.

C. W. BUCKLEY.

Rheumatism and Arthritis: Review of American and English Literature of Recent Years. (Ninth Rheumatism Review.) Reprinted from the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, January and February, 1948, vol. 28. Pp. 385. (No price given.)

The rheumatism review which appeared in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* each year until interrupted by the war has made a welcome reappearance, and this issue covers the period from 1941 to 1945 inclusive. It is the work of a committee of the American Rheumatism Association, most of whom were on military service during this period. It furnishes a striking example of the valuable work that is possible with the co-operative effort of enthusiasts possessing knowledge of their subject and aptitude for the task, and reflects the highest credit on the editors and the American Rheumatism Association, under whose auspices it appears.

It is a very comprehensive survey of the literature of the period in question and deals with every aspect of rheumatic disease, including many rare conditions as well as those of everyday experience. More than 2,000 references are given, in addition to 370 pages of critical discussion by acknowledged authorities. It is obvious that a publication of this character does not lend itself to detailed review. It should be in every medical library, and those who can obtain a copy for their own bookshelves will be fortunate.

It may be noted that the classification recently approved by the American Rheumatism Association for inclusion in the *Standard Nomenclature of Disease* differs in certain details from British opinion, and it would be an advantage if uniformity could be obtained in the English-speaking countries in this respect.

One criticism may be permitted: the work is worthy of a more durable binding as it will be in frequent use for reference.

C. W. BUCKLEY.

We have received from Finland a copy of a special number of the *Annales Medicinæ Internæ Fenniae*, Vol. 36, fasc. 1, 1947, dedicated to Professor Holsti on his sixtieth birthday. We wish through the medium of the *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases* to express the congratulations of his British colleagues on the honour thus done to him. Of the eighteen articles by different contributors to this special number which are of importance and value, two in particular will be found of special interest to rheumatologists, the first by Dr. Appelgren of Stockholm "On so-called Allergic Arthritis", and the final one by Dr. Virkkunen of Helsinki on "Prolonged Administration of Sulphonamides in Rheumatoid Arthritis". The whole contents of this special number are of a high standard and worthy of Finnish Medicine, of which Professor Holsti is a distinguished member.

EDITOR.