assessment couched in vague terms (such as "much better", "improved", "results good") are of no real significance in modern scientific investigation. The more thoughtful reader would like to see more evidence brought forward in substantiation of the therapeutic claims made. Such evidence would require follow-up reports and the use of standards of assessment of disability and progress adequate to the demands of modern research. The addition of such a chapter would add considerably to the value of this book. J. W. T. PATTERSON.

Arthritis and Allied Conditions. By the late B. I. Comroe, M.D. Rev. ed. by Joseph L. Hollander. 1949. London: Henry Kimpton. Pp. 1108. Illustrated. 80s.

Dr. Joseph Hollander has undertaken the considerable task of editing and revising the new edition of this well-known book. He has called to his aid a number of distinguished contributors. Though this book has always been a complete work of reference, it seemed to some, in former editions, lacking in critical appraisal, and all views were quoted without discrimination. This has been altered by the new editor and the value of the work greatly enhanced thereby. At the same time the extensive references have been kept up to date and the many photographs and drawings are as good as ever. One of the features of former editions were the clear tables on differential diagnosis throughout the book; these have been retained and extended, though some workers in this country would like to see one differentiating rheumatoid arthritis from ankylosing spondylitis.

Dr. Wallace Graham has written a first-class account of the painful shoulder with its problems of differential diagnosis and treatment, and also an excellent note on the organization of an arthritis clinic, which reflects the views of many in Great Britain.

Dr. Richard Freyberg has a well-balanced chapter on gold salt therapy, in which he weighs carefully the evidence for and against this form of treatment. He concludes that gold salts are of value if carefully controlled, but points out very clearly the complications which may occur.

Dr. Edward Boland has written an excellent chapter on the psychogenic factors in the rheumatic diseases, including psychogenic rheumatism, and this account, which is the result of his own and Hench's work in the army, will be carefully studied by many. He also deals with the subject of spondylitis, and gives a fine description of the natural history of the disease and its various clinical aspects.

Dr. Edward Rosenberg contributes on many subjects, including the pathological aspects and the visceral manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis, and gives excellent summaries of recent knowledge on these and the other matters with which he deals.

Many readers will turn with pleasure to the chapters by Dr. John Lansbury on the endocrine glands, allergy, and the collagen group of diseases. These are clearly written, and though short in the present edition will have to be expanded in the future. He sifts the arguments as to the role of allergy in the rheumatic diseases and concludes that we must "wait and see; since the pathogenesis of both

allergy and the rheumatic diseases is little understood, explaining one unknown in terms of another does not solve the problem ”.

The two chapters on the collagen group of diseases are perhaps the outstanding new contribution to the book. The whole group is considered in a most lucid manner and each condition described with the utmost clarity. The editor himself has written or collaborated in many of the chapters. No rheumatologist can afford not to have this book, and young physicians who are turning with interest to this subject should study it carefully, as it is a major work of reference with many authoritative views included.

W. S. C. COPEMAN.