

so often been found before their gouty subjects were more often overweight and of a higher social position, leading to a higher percentage of gout in private patients (300 out of 4,979) as compared with hospital patients (70 out of 3,335). 20·2 per cent. of their patients were female, which is rather higher than has been found in other countries, but is supported by other statistics from Spain and France. Some 62 per cent. had tophi, and it was of interest that if tophi were to develop they did so within 10 (and usually within 5) years of the onset of gout. With further evolution of disease the incidence of tophi tended to fall. The authors' original studies on gout in the hip are detailed. In one patient gout led to the painless absorption of the femoral heads.

The book is profusely illustrated by numerous clinical photographs and x-ray studies, and will

form a valuable reference and teaching book for showing the evolution of gout in usual and unusual sites. Following the clinical review there are competent summaries of the pathology and treatment of gout, although that on pathology is now somewhat out of date because of the advances in recent years. Thus allopurinol is included, but important recent work on the phosphoribosyltransferase enzymes is not; although it seems that the latter will eventually enable students of gout to classify cases aetiologically according to the underlying biochemical deficiencies, the day when this may be possible is still a long way off. Meanwhile clinicians must be guided by such clinical criteria and experience as are ably exemplified in this book.

A. ST. J. DIXON

### PROFESSOR J. J. R. DUTHIE

The conferral of a Professorship upon Dr. J. J. R. Duthie of Edinburgh will be greeted with great pleasure by his friends and colleagues. There are already two Professors of Rheumatology in the United Kingdom and this new Chair is a recognition not only of the man himself but of the growing influence of the specialty.

Professor Duthie and his associates are well known for their research work in the rheumatic diseases; this has included industrial surveys and investigations

into the natural history and prognosis of rheumatoid arthritis, together with various haematological and immunological studies. Their recent work on the isolation of diphtheroid organisms from joints in rheumatoid arthritis has been the subject of considerable interest.

Professor Duthie is President of the Heberden Society and is an active member of the Editorial Committee of the *Annals*, to which he is a frequent contributor. He has our best wishes for his continued success.