
This compact book contains ten articles, all written by acknowledged experts in the field and relating to various aspects of the crystal-induced diseases of joints. Much of the book is devoted to the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of hyperuricaemia and gout, but other forms of crystal deposition disease, including that due to calcium pyrophosphate and hydroxyapatite, are adequately covered too. Though the work in no way competes with the larger tomes recently published dealing in particular with gout, the succinct presentation readily commends itself to the practising physician. It is refreshingly up to date, all authors except one quoting references from the 1976 literature.

This is in fact the seventh number of a series, the first of which was entitled Rheumatic Manifestations of Systemic Disease, edited by Professor Bywaters. Other titles have included The Current Management of Rheumatoid Arthritis edited by Drs Carl Pearson and Carson Dick; Systemic Lupus Erythematosus edited by Dr Naomi Rothfield; Diagnosis and Assessment edited by Professor Malcolm Jayson; Rheumatic Diseases in Childhood edited by Dr Barbara Ansell; and Osteoarthritis edited by Professor Verna Wright. Each volume consists of a series of review articles relating to the central theme.

'Clinics in Rheumatic Diseases’ represent a useful addition to the rheumatological literature, helping to fill the very real gap that exists between original articles appearing in journals such as this and the larger textbooks which can, of necessity, only be produced at intervals of several years.

R. GRAHAME


This book comprises the proceedings of a symposium entitled 'Penicillamine in Rheumatic Diseases. Mode of Action—a Key to Pathogenesis?’ held at Spatind, Norway, March 7–10, 1976. Under the chairmanship of Dr Israel Jaffe the workshop had a truly international flavour. The topics covered a wide range of differing aspects of penicillamine action in vitro, and its effects on collagen metabolism and on humoral and cellular immunity were well covered. There was little new to emerge in the clinical studies and the question of the optimum dose remains unresolved. The papers on side effects focused largely on the renal lesion and Goodpasture’s syndrome. One pleasing feature of the text is the very full account of the discussion that took place after each paper and the informal style with which this was presented.

As an appendix to the volume the reader is offered a number of papers given at the 2nd meeting of the Standing Committee on International Clinical Studies of the European League Against Rheumatism, which was held on the day immediately preceding the penicillamine workshop. The topics discussed included evaluation of drugs, animal models, radiological evaluation, and the benefits of surgery.

R. GRAHAME


This book was written after the First International Symposium on HLA and Disease held in Paris in June 1976. It is not strictly speaking a record of the proceedings of the symposium, but a summary of the state of knowledge at that time. It is broadly divided into three sections. In the first the previous work on other genetic markers, such as the ABO blood group system, is reviewed by Dr A. E. Mourant. Following this are chapters on the biology of the major histocompatibility complex. Dr Rose Payne gives a very clear account of the HLA region in man and Drs Svejgaard and Ryder report on the HLA and disease registry, listing the current data on disease associations and discussing the pitfalls of such studies.

The second section contains more detailed reviews of associations between specific diseases and HLA antigens. Most of the reports are written by the chairmen of the various workshops at the Paris meeting and included are sections on neurology, dermatology, gastroenterology,