outside the range of a review. The whole book deserves the most careful study and appears indispensable not only to rheumatologists in particular, but also to physicians generally. The translation is excellent.

Reference to earlier work bearing on the same subject should be made as follows:

Destructive and Ossifying Spondylitic Changes in Rheumatoid Ankylosing Spondylitis. Ragnar Romanus and Sven Ydén (1952). *Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica*, 22, 88.

Diskography in Ankylosing Spondylitis. Ragnar Romanus and Sven Ydén (1952). *Acta Radiologica*, 38, 431. C. W. BUCKLEY.

The Suprarenal Cortex. Proceedings of the Fifth Symposium of the Colston Research Society, University of Bristol, April, 1952. Ed. J. M. Yoffey. 1953. Butterworth, London. Pp. 232, 12 tables, 50 figs. (42s.)

In this book are reported the proceedings of the Colston Research Society's Symposium on the Adrenal Cortex, which was held in April, 1952. It consists of twenty papers on various aspects of adrenocortical function and the subsequent discussions. The list of those participating runs to well over a hundred names, and includes leading authorities on the various aspects of the subject from all over the world. Perhaps because of the large size of the Conference the papers tend to be reviews rather than reports of the individuals' own recent research, but in many instances the authors have allowed themselves a wide latitude in developing new and often provocative hypotheses. The subjects include anatomical descriptions of the gland-structure, especially from the newer viewpoint of histochemistry, chemical reviews of the nature of ACTH and of various steroid hormones, physiological reports on the mechanisms controlling the release of hormones and their influence on the various endorgans, and finally the clinical assessments of the effects of treatment of various conditions with adrenocortical hormones and surgery of the adrenal glands. The book presents a valuable analysis of the known facts about the adrenal cortex in a much fuller and more authoritative manner than can be obtained from a textbook. The only criticism must be directed not against the book or the proceedings reported in it but against the inevitable delay involved in making this knowledge more generally available when the science of this subject is developing so very rapidly. A. C. CROOKE.

Comroe's Arthritis and Allied Conditions. Ed. Joseph L. Hollander. 5th ed. 1953. Kimpton, London. Pp. 1103, illus. (115s.)

In the fifth edition of this excellent book many of the chapters have been revised, and there are new ones on

Corticotropin, Cortisone, and Hydrocortisone; Intra-articular Injection of Hydrocortisone; and Low-back Pain and Sciatica.

Dr. R. H. Freyberg reviews the present position of the new steroid compounds in treatment. After discussing the physiological and pharmacological effects, the possible manner of action, and the dangers of administration, he refers to his own experience with long-term administration in rheumatoid arthritis, and concludes that maintenance therapy appears to be valuable for some but not practical for all patients with this disease. He says that it is not yet possible to state precisely the conditions under which it should not be employed.

The chief editor, Dr. J. L. Hollander, writes from 2 years' experience of intra-articular hydrocortisone, and tells of encouraging results from this method of treatment, with at least partial suppression of inflammation in 90 per cent. of cases of rheumatoid arthritis. The steroid appears, from work in his laboratory, to be taken up by the cells of the synovial fluid and by the lining cells of the synovial membrane. This substance has also been used widely and with some success in osteo-arthritis, but because of difficulties of intra-articular injection into the hip joint, 53 per cent. of such cases were failures. The technique of injection into various joints is explained with illustrations and a scheme of dosage.

The chapter on low-back pain and sciatica by Philip Wilson (senior and junior) gives a clear summary of these conditions with anatomical explanations and details of the proper examination of such cases. The lucid account of low-back strain and its precursors is most helpful.

In the previous edition one enjoyed particularly the chapters by Dr. John Lansbury on the collagen group of diseases; these have been brought up to date and new summaries in box form and illustrations added.

This latest edition is an improvement on the already very high standard of its predecessors, and the editor and his collaborators are to be congratulated.

OSWALD SAVAGE.

Press Guide to British Chemicals and their Manufacturers. 1953. Pp. 76. Association of British Chemical Manufacturers, London.

This booklet has been prepared by the A.B.C.M. to provide a handy means of reference to sources of information on chemical subjects. It contains a directory of the companies which are members of the association, an index of chemical products and fields of research likely to be the subject of inquiry, and a comprehensive list of proprietary and trade names. It is proposed to issue revised editions from time to time. Research workers or others who would find this directory useful should write for a free copy to The Manager, A.B.C.M., 166 Piccadilly, London, W.1.