Continental treatment differs in certain respects from British practice, and more emphasis, for instance, is placed on spas. Also the patient abroad seems to associate radio-activity, in some vague manner, with the treatment of rheumatism—a habit of thought which is not discouraged. In fact, it may be said that, if dreams are the product of experience in the waking hours, the reviewer of continental medical literature is likely to have his slumbers disturbed by visions of petrol-pumps labelled "Fill up here with Thorium-X" and high voltage machines advertising "Emanations without Examinations"; in Great Britain, on the other hand, the public is becoming radiation-conscious, experts are questioning the desirability of certain diagnostic-radiology procedures, and there is even heart-searching over the possibility that a proportion of cases of ankylosing spondylitis treated by deep x-rays may develop leukaemia in later years.

The authors have provided an adequate alphabetical index but have deliberately curtailed the bibliography and quoted French references wherever possible; this measure of economy may be not unconnected with the cost of publication in France which, to judge by the price of the volume, is considerably higher than in England.

DAVID PREISKEL.

Collagen Diseases. By John H. Talbott and R. Moleres Ferrandis. 1956. Pp. 232, 30 figs. Grune and Stratton, New York. (\$6.50; 45s.)

The works of the senior author of this book are well known to all serious students of medicine; few people are better qualified to review the world's literature on the collagen disorders.

The book is well-produced and readable. A total of 540 references are listed at the end of the book under the headings of the five chapters: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Polyarteritis, Dermatomyositis, Systemic scleroderma, and (somewhat surprisingly) Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura. The subject matter is well arranged to form a useful book of reference for the student of this group of disorders. There are a few omissions—cranial arteritis is not mentioned in the differential diagnosis of polyarteritis, and scleroedema is only mentioned once with no discussion of its importance in differential diagnosis and no clinical details.

The x-ray reproductions and black and white illustrations are clear and demonstrate the relevant details satisfactorily, but the same cannot be said of the sixteen coloured plates appearing on pp. 1–8. The colour of the butterfly rash on the face of a patient with disseminated lupus erythematosus is a very characteristic one, of which the reproduction in Plate I gives quite a false impression; it is clear that these plates have suffered considerably in reproduction. This is, however, perhaps a minor defect in an otherwise well-produced and compact handbook of an intriguing corner in the field of medicine.

F. DUDLEY HART.

Osteo-Arthritis. A Handbook for Patients. 1956. Published by the Empire Rheumatism Council, London. (Free on application to the Secretary, E.R.C., Tavistock House, London, W.C.1.)

This anonymous booklet of twenty pages has been written for the encouragement of the sufferer from osteo-arthritis. It explains in simple but attractive language not only what osteo-arthritis is, but also what it is not. The structure of the joint is explained first and then follows a description of why degenerative changes occur. Fallacies are neatly controverted and misconceptions succinctly removed, as in the following five statements:

Creaks and clicks in joints do not mean arthritis or rheumatism. It's not what the x ray looks like, but how the joint works that counts. Cold and damp may make you feel your aches and pains more, but they don't cause arthritis. Osteo-arthritis isn't due to acid in the joint. Diet doesn't matter unless you are too fat.

In the advice on treatment a nice definition is achieved between the virtue of mobility and the vice of over-activity.

This is a companion booklet to the admirable publication of the Empire Rheumatism Council on *Rheumatoid Arthritis*. It is equally successful and, like its fellow, enjoys the advantage of many humorous line-drawings by Leslie Starke which gaily decorate, although they cannot illuminate, the text. This is a priceless work which freely encourages and consoles the sufferer from osteo-arthritis, and should now be compulsory reading in all rheumatic clinics. It is a model for all those doctors who would educate the patient in his understanding of his disease.

DOUGLAS HUBBLE.