BOOK REVIEWS

Morceaux choisis de rhumatologie: Les rhumatismes chronique inflammatoires de l'enfant. (Selected Items in Rheumatology—Chronic Inflammatory Rheumatism in Childhood.) Edited by F. DELBARRE and A. PEYLAN. 1966. International Monographs of Rheumatology. Expansion Scientifique Française, Paris. (NF 65).

This second issue of "Morceaux Choisis" is devoted entirely to chronic arthritis in juveniles. The first six essays deal with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (Still's disease). Each reviews the literature and repeats much the same historical material, and there is, not surprisingly, not much disagreement on conclusions.

Notable is the contribution by J. Forestier and his colleagues from Aix-les-Bains: a 60-page essay illustrated with original statistics based on forty cases which fully examines the incidence and prognosis of the various complications.

Three further papers discuss ankylosing spondylitis with juvenile onset. That by Delbarre and Martin is based on nineteen indisputable cases, reviewed in detail and compared with those in the literature. The frequent involvement of peripheral joints is stressed, but, surprisingly, the relationship of psoriasis to these cases is not discussed. P. Doury reports that juvenile ankylosing spondylitis seems particularly common in Morocco.

The next three papers are concerned with the "Wissler-Fanconi" syndrome, or "subsepsis allergica". These are instances of what would be regarded in Great Britain as a variety of Still's disease, in which systemic and skin manifestations predominate. Is it a separate entity? Delbarre and Amor differentiate these cases on the basis of the rash, of the high or sometimes picket-fence fever (often unresponsive to corticosteroids), of the mild or subacute arthritis, and of the excellent prognosis for life and recovery without residua (unless prolonged corticosteroid treatment has interfered with growth). They have also found intra-leucocytic crystals which differ from sodium biurate or calcium pyrophosphate in a man aged 38 whom they considered to have this syndrome.

The last three papers are concerned with serologi-

cal questions in juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

A. ST. J. DIXON.

The Connective Tissues. Edited by BERNARD M. WAGNER and DAVID E. SMITH. 1967. Pp. xi + 408. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore. (£7).

In 1965, at the Annual Meeting of the International Academy of Pathology, there was an educational course on the pathophysiology of connective tissue, and symposia on the geographic pathology and research methods relevant to this theme. This book records these happenings. There are thirty contributors. Each chapter has a bibliography, and there is an author and a subject index. The educational course occupies half the book, about 200 pages. It consists of illustrated papers on calcified tissues, fibrinoid, amyloid, reactive fibrosis, and lathyrism, plus chapters on the haematological, hormonal, and immuno-morphological aspects, and a stimulating review of connective tissue diseases in animals other than man. This last is written by three pathologists two of whom are veterinarians—a most welcome liaison.

In the section on geographic pathology there is a review of the morphology of SLE from Moscow, and reports on the prevalence of SLE and related diseases in Israel, Scandinavia, and Latin America. Items of interest here include a difference (of uncertain origin) in the age distribution of SLE across the North Atlantic, and a possible ethnic difference in the distribution of rheumatoid arthritis among Jews in Israel.

The histochemistry and the microchemistry of mucopolysaccharides are expertly dealt with in the section on research methods which also contains two fine chapters, largely non-technical: one on the physical chemistry of mucopolysaccharides, the other on recent electron microscopic studies of the interrelations of collagen, elastin, and muscle fibres.

The declared object of the Academy is to present examples of modern investigations on a chosen theme in a form having an educational value. In this they have succeeded; and for this reason the book should have a wide appeal.

J. BALL.