arranged logically, and is considerably enhanced by clear and attractive line drawings by W. Brennan. The reader is not plunged into a mass of detail on individual aids but asked first, Is a hoist really necessary? While few doctors will require detailed knowledge of individual hoists, slings, and accessories, most working with patients with mobility problems would find this chapter a highly readable source of information on transferring and on toileting difficulties and their solution. This information obviously derives from Miss Tarling's experience in the Disabled Living Foundation and the Newcastle Aids Centre, and indicates the value of aids centres. Such advice is not easily obtainable elsewhere. The book deals with the use of hoists in virtually every situation, in hospital, at home, at work, and in transit. It should be available in all departments of rehabilitation, to all who are concerned with the ordering of hoists, and all who must use them, in which case its use should be reinforced by practical training.

M. A. CHAMBERLAIN

Textbook of Rheumatology. Eds. W. N. Kelley, E. D. Harris, S. Ruddy, and C. B. Sledge. Pp. 2054. £56.00, single vol. £67.00, twin vols. W. B. Saunders: Philadelphia. 1981.

'The field of rheumatology', write the 4 highly distinguished editors, 'has come of age. . . . The time has now come for a major new textbook in rheumatology.' Striving for an authoritative, comprehensive reference book, they have indeed produced a massive work, the single volume measuring 11½ inches by 9 inches by 3 inches and weighing nearly 12 lb. No fewer than 124 contributors have written its 2054 pages, made up of 24 major sections divided into 123 chapters. The first 4 sections are general—Scientific Basis of Rheumatology; General Approach to the Patient; Diagnostic Tests; Clinical Pharmacology. Sections 5 to 21 describe the various rheumatological entities. The last 3 sections deal with Medical Orthopaedics, Rehabilitation, and Reconstructive Surgery.

Beyond any doubt we must congratulate the editors on the successful completion of their immense task of design, compilation, and integration, no less than the publishers on the production of a book of very good quality indeed. By present-day standards the price is not excessive.

The disadvantages of the book, from which its sheer size in no way protects it, perhaps the reverse, are those inherent in any multiauthor work. Pursuit of a single entity involves consulting different sections. Thus an overall view of gout will necessitate reading Chapter 21 (Purine and Deoxypurine Metabolism), Chapter 33 (Approach to the Patient with Hyperuricaemia), Chapter 38 (Synovial Fluid Analysis), Chapter 39 (Diagnostic Radiology), Chapter 50 (Nonsteroidal Antirheumatic Drugs), Chapter 56 (Antihyperuricaemic Drugs), Chapter 57 (Colchicine), and Chapter 86 (Gout and Related Disorders of Purine Metabolism). Examples of overlap are not difficult to find, and indeed the editors declare their belief that some repetition is appropriate and

necessary. Minor inconsistencies and omissions are also hardly avoidable. For example, an inquiry into Kashin-Beck disease will reveal on p. 346 that it is due to toxicity by the fungus *Fusarium sporotrichella* but on p. 1542 that it is secondary to iron intake in drinking water. The reader will search in vain for an account of osteonecrosis as a not uncommon complication of systemic lupus erythematosus; it is not mentioned in the chapters on SLE and its management, while it has only a brief mention (though with a reference) in the chapter on osteonecrosis.

It all depends on whether you care for textbooks, big ones in particular. Some will value the book highly as the culmination of reference books in the field of rheumatic diseases. Others may be less enthusiastic, regarding it as a kind of literary dinosaur. Still, dinosaurs were pretty successful in their day, dominating the earth for 140 million years, which gives plenty of time for future editions.

J. T. SCOTT

Prostaglandin Synthetase Inhibitors. Ed. Peter Ramwell. Pp. 420. US\$ 34.00. Alan R. Liss: New York. 1980.

Very substantial advances have been made in understanding the physiology and pharmacology of prostaglandins in the last 10 years. The clinical significance of many of the findings remains uncertain but vigorously suggestive, and is discussed at numerous symposia. The present volume is the proceedings of such a symposium held in Paris in September 1979.

The chapters on arachidonate metabolism and granulomatous inflammation, on prostaglandins and the synovial membrane, and on synthetase inhibitors as therapeutic agents are those most likely to be of interest to rheumatologists. However, a more recent account of anti-inflammatory drugs and arachidonic acid metabolism was given at the Wembley conference on Clinical Pharmacology, held in August 1980, and has already appeared in print, so the present volume is not the most up-to-date account available. Most of the book is concerned with cardiovascular disturbances, renal function and disturbances of pregnancy and childbirth, and gastrointestinal and pulmonary function. It will appeal to those with very broad interests or with special involvement with prostaglandin synthesis, and the information it contains will probably be largely superseded in a few years.

M. WEATHERALL

Mason and Currey's Introduction to Clinical Rheumatology. 3rd edn. Ed. H. L. F. Currey. Pp. 372. £12.95. Pitman Medical: London. 1981.

As a medical student recently completing my time on a rheumatology firm I found this book to be of tremendous value in succinctly describing the diseases seen in the clinics and on the wards. The chapters on the examination of joints and laboratory investigations are indispensable for the undergraduate and in this respect could be better placed at the beginning.

The book is written in the form of separate articles by different authors but linked up very effectively with cross-references and a comprehensive index, so that it does not appear to be discontinuous. It is therefore easy to read, and the enthusiasm of the authors for their subjects comes across in each chapter, making the approach to a large field varied and interesting. It is also sufficiently concise for revision purposes, with adequate references for more detailed study if required.

The illustrations are generally good, but pictures of macroscopic pathology are lacking in some chapters. I also thought that the separation of the morbid anatomy from the clinical picture was an artificial and unnecessary division and would probably be more useful if integrated into the relevant chapters.

Altogether, this is a very readable and useful book, which is realistically priced for the undergraduate student.

JEREMY F. C. SCHNETLER

A Colour Atlas of Rheumatology. By A. C. Boyle. Pp. 176. £12.00. Wolfe Medical Publications: London. 1980.

Dr Boyle has produced in this book a distillate of clinical experience over many years with numerous superb photographs of arthritis and its complications. The book is aimed at general practitioners and medical students, but it will also serve as an excellent aide-mémoire for SHOs and registrars. It has no pretensions to being absolutely comprehensive or to discussing in great detail the features of arthritis in all its forms, nor does it deal with therapy at all. The pictures maintain a high quality with few exceptions throughout the book, though there is the usual problem of producing first-class copies of radiographs. These are not of the same quality as the colour photographs.

This is a fascinating and useful book—helpful for introducing medical students to the appearance of arthritis and an excellent reminder for doctors.

A. K. THOULD

Diagnostic and Operative Arthroscopy of the Knee Joint. By Glinz Werner. Pp. 129. DM 98.00. Hans Huber: Berne, Switzerland. 1980.

This well illustrated monograph is based on the author's analysis of the first 800 arthroscopies carried out in his clinic. It describes the modern thinking and the technique of arthroscopy, including useful information about the equipment, its maintenance, and the most commonly used approaches, together with helpful advice on the best way to obtain the most information out of the examination. There is a brief section on indications, contra-indications and complications. The majority of common arthroscopic findings are well illustrated in the main section of the book, and there is a brief summary of the findings in 800 cases illustrating a very low clinical diagnostic accuracy. The section on arthroscopic surgery

is fairly basic, as one would expect in the first 800 cases. At the end of the book there is a useful bibliography and index.

This book sets out the basic essentials of arthroscopy clearly and concisely. It makes interesting reading for those involved in this technique and essential reading for those thinking of setting up an arthroscopic service.

A. J. HALL

Inflammation: Mechanisms and Treatment. Eds. D. A. Willoughby and J. P. Giroud. Pp. 873. £39.95. MTP Press: Lancaster. 1981.

This is a book with something for everyone concerned with inflammation, but nothing much for anyone. It is tantalising in that the reader is told, in passing, of what sounds like important work, only to find that the work is not listed in the references to the article. An example of this occurs in the relaxed review on crystal deposition disease by Faure, Gaucher, Netter, Pourel, and Duheille. They say, 'Ultrastructural confirmation by Ali . . . is important because of the origin of the mineral.' But they do not list a reference to Ali's work. It is tantalising also because there appears to be no relation between the length of the article and the importance of the work suggested by the title of the article. Thus 'Future trends in mechanisms of cartilage destruction,' by Dingle, features only as a brief abstract of 11 lines; it is followed by a page and a half (small type) of discussion, which shows how much the reader is missing by not having a record of the given paper.

This volume contains 125 contributions, each of which may be a short abstract or a full paper; the discussion that followed these communications is also included. The level of the papers is extremely variable. Some, like the review by Higgs and Eakins dealing with the cyclo-oxygenase and lipoxygenase pathways, will be of general interest to rheumatologists; others are of such mediocrity that one wonders if they would have been accepted for publication in a reputable journal. The subjects range over all aspects of inflammation, even to experimental protoporphyria in hairless mice, yet none is dealt with in sufficient detail to allow a reviewer to recommend the book for at least this or that review. Consequently the book can be summarised as follows: if you want to know what research is being done in 'inflammation', and which laboratories are concerned in such research, the contents list of this book is a convenient, if expensive, way of finding out. On the other hand if you want to learn about current research in inflammation, with details of experimental procedures and critical discussion of the problems, you will be best advised to seek elsewhere.

J. CHAYEN

Clinical Arthrography. By R-D. Arndt, J. W. Honns, R. H. Gold. Pp. 212. US\$36.00. Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore, Maryland. 1981.

The preface comments that arthrography is a regular part of the daily practice of most radiologists, a statement