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