DR. SWINBURNE: I was hoping that no one would ask me this question! Our clinical impression is that the oedema seen in the upper limbs in rheumatoid arthritis is different from that in the lower limbs; there is no evidence that it is a peripheral vascular phenomenon as in the legs. It is rather associated with inflammatory changes in the subcutaneous tissues and in the joints of

the hands and wrists. I suspect that a specimen of fluid would probably have quite a high protein value.

PROF. E. G. L. BYWATERS: This fluid is often difficult to extract because of clots in the needle. We take it into a 0.5-ml. pipette, but if it is inflammatory it clots if not taken out very quickly.

BOOK REVIEW

Lehrbuch der Rheumatologie. By H. TICHY, K. SEIDEL, and G. HEIDELMANN. 2nd edition, 1962. Pp. 492, 141 figs. VEB Verlag Volk und Gesundheit, Berlin.

The first edition of this comprehensive textbook appeared in 1959 and such was its popularity that within 6 months of publication the authors were requested to begin preparing a second edition. In the intervening 3 years much experience has accumulated on the use of serological techniques

in rheumatology and this is reflected in the present edition. The section on orthopaedic procedures has been enlarged at the expense of references to heart surgery. Other minor changes have been made without altering the size and format of this successful textbook. This worthy aim could still be attained in the third edition, which is bound to come, by incorporating any fresh advances into the pages now reserved for various proprietary preparations.

DAVID PREISKEL.