Book reviews

Sjögren's Syndrome. By MARTIN A. SHEARN. 1971. Pp. 262, 108 figs. Saunders, Philadelphia and London (£4.90)

This is an excellent monograph on Sjögren's Syndrome by a physician who has spent many years studying the problem. The historical outline is comprehensive and gives a very clear account of the development in knowledge of the syndrome. The difficult problem of definition of the disease is thoughtfully discussed, and the clinical features and associations of the condition are admirably reviewed. It is always easy to find criticism of any textbook, but this reviewer finds it impossible to fault the author in any major way. The book deals comprehensively with the less well-known aspects of the epidemiology of the disease and gives a balanced account of the association of the syndrome with other autoimmune diseases and with lymphoid malignancy. The section dealing with the renal complications of Sjögren's syndrome is perhaps the best section of the book, as might be expected in view of Dr. Shearn's major contribution to knowledge in this area. The recent discovery that NZB and NZB/NZW mice develop lesions in the lacrimal and salivary glands histologically resembling those of Sjögren's syndrome is not only fully discussed but beautifully illustrated. Perhaps a more complete discussion of the role of the Gross strain of the murine leukaemia virus in the pathogenesis of the autoimmune disease of these mice would have been helpful. The reader is left with the impression that the autoimmune disease in these mice is transmissible with cell-free filtrates, but several groups of workers have failed to confirm these observations. Furthermore, the relevance of this work to the problem of the histological changes in the lacrimal and salivary glands is not clear, as Mellors, the only worker to succeed in transmitting the disease by cell-free filtrates, did not examine the lacrimal or salivary glands of the recipient mice. But this is a niggling point, which in no way detracts from the overall excellence of the book, which in addition to its comprehensive literature (579 references) is handsomely illustrated.

This book is an essential buy for every rheumatologist, and at £4.90 it is a bargain even for a Scotsman. As Sjögren's syndrome is a common disease which frequently fails to be diagnosed by general physicians, it is clearly important for medical libraries to purchase this important book. The book will also be extremely useful to workers in the fields of ophthalmology, oral medicine, otolaryngology, immunology, and pathology.

W. W. BUCHANAN

Beiträge zur Rheumatologie, vol. 16. Edited by the late H. TICHY and K. SEIDEL. 1971. Pp. 184, 38 figs. Veb Verlag Volk und Gesundheit, Berlin (£6)

The 16th volume of the *Beiträge* consists of five chapters entirely devoted to rheumatoid arthritis. The first contains a discussion on the morphology of the disease, a review of the literature in the preceding 5 years, and experimental investigations on morphology and immuno-

logy. The second, even larger, chapter contains a detailed study of adjuvant-induced arthritis in the rat. Though much of it will prove heavy reading for the clinician, it is, now and then, illuminated by a gleam of clinical interest, as in the finding that sixteen out of twenty rats with polyarthritis developed uveal tract inflammation (14 to 16 days after injection) and that 30 per cent. of animals with arthritis had balanitis (22 to 26 days after injection). The next section, on Felty's syndrome, points out the relative rarity of this condition and notes that the five original cases described by Felty in 1924 had grown to a total of only seventy in the world literature by 1958. Yet, 2 years later, their number had swelled to 125—a rapid expansion which, the authors suggest, was due more to the greatly increased interest in rheumatology than to a spectacular rise in the incidence of the syndrome. In this chapter, too, they discuss the aetiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of the syndrome and its attendant problem, splenectomy.

The fourth chapter covers anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. The reader is guided through the complicated maze of biochemical action and choice of preparation by a number of descriptive Tables. For example, Table I classifies the properties of hydrocortisone, colchicine, salicylic acid, and phenylbutazone by their inhibition of inflammation, antirheumatic effect, antihistamine effect, inhibition of cellular oxydation, ATP-production, and proliferative processes, membrane effect, and metal-binding tendencies. Other Tables classify the various cortisone derivatives and give their dosage, compare the cytostatic effect of certain 'antirheumatic' agents on the Ehrlich-ascites tumour and mouse fibroblasts, and classify the better known cytostatic preparations according to their mode of action—antimetabolite, folic acid antagonism, purine antagonism, etc.

The final chapter deals with the antistreptolysin reaction and its evaluation by the albumin and dextran-sulphate methods. The great difference is stressed between a rise in the O titre in children and adults. It is in the latter that nonspecific streptococci may intrude deceptively and require evaluation; the authors seem to prefer the dextran-sulphate method.

This volume retains the excellent format and quality of its predecessors. There is a table of contents and an ample international list of references at the end of each chapter, but no index. Its appeal will obviously be to the specialist rather than to the general physician, but the price of £6 for 184 pages in soft covers may surprise both.

DAVID PREISKEL

Reumatologia. Edited by HILTON SEDA. 1971. 2 vols, pp. 1,372, figures, bibl. Editora Cultura Medica, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

This definitive Brazilian textbook of the rheumatic diseases is of course of particular value for those who can read and understand the Portuguese language. The 1,372 pages are