complement and lysosomes, Selye's Adaptation Syndrome is described, details of the mechanism by which probenecid produces its uricosuric effect are given, an honourable mention is made of intravenous nitrogen mustard in the treatment of rheumatoid disease, and chondrocalcinosis receives its acknowledgement. It is probably true that American patients are more medically sophisticated than English medical students. But one winces to read that 'fibrositis is an inflammation in the fibrous connective tissue rather than the joints', and 'although the exact cause is not known, it seems probable that it is basically due to infection'. Many medical terms are defined in the text, including 'ankylosis', 'proliferation', 'anti-phlogistic', and (sad to say) 'neoplasm' at some length (I thought we used it to hide the truth, not that our euphemistic secrets should be divulged).

It was interesting to learn that at Georgetown they have carried out a controlled trial of drinking spa water and found that tap water is equally good. For the record let it be said that the sulphur water at Harrogate is good value at six pence a glass—its nauseating effect saves you the price of a dinner.

All in all, for my patients, I think I'll stick to the booklets produced by the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council (here anachronistically called the Empire Rheumatism Council).

V. WRIGHT

Douleurs d'origine vertébrale et traitements par manipulations. By ROBERT MAIGNE. 2nd ed., 1972. Pp. 512, 561 figs. Expansion Scientifique, Paris (Frs 106)

Dr. Maigne is one of the best known physicians specializing in manipulative treatment. The first edition of this book is well known and is available in English. So far the second edition has been published only in French. Basically this is a practical book devoted to the indications for manipulation and details of technique. It is well set out and is clearly the work of a skilled enthusiast who is a good teacher. The illustrations are excellent and helpful. Unfortunately it has the inevitable major weakness of all books of this kind that there is no true assessment of the value of the treatments described. At present there are no firmly established facts and a manual of this type can be based only on evaluation by practical experience.

DERRICK BREWERTON

La sclerodermie (Scleroderma). Edited by F. DELBARRE, Director of the W.H.O. International Reference Centre for Connective Tissue Diseases, Paris. 1972. Pp 311, 152 figs. Masson, Paris.

Scleroderma is the one connective tissue disease which is unique to the naked ape. Many millions of the rest of the animal kingdom are regularly flayed for their hides and pelts to protect the integument of their hairless though intelligent fellow creature. Surely one of those intelligent naked apes would have noticed animal scleroderma by now if it existed? Has the unique hairlessness of man nothing to do with the aetiology? Is it the lack of animal analogues which has so delayed effective research in this disease?

A student of scleroderma might be expected to ask these questions. But the symposium under this title does not pose them. Rather does it report the deliberations of a group of international authorities describing their clinical series and the various manifestations they have encountered. Yet, although mainly concerned with the clinical aspects, as a clinical description of this disease the book cannot be considered comprehensive; compare, for example, the superbly illustrated chapter on Systemic Sclerosis in Boyle and Buchanan's 'Textbook of Rheumatology'. Nor is it a comprehensive source of references—to be fair, it does not set out to be. The editor has done his job carefully, but the trouble has obviously been that only a few of the contributors had anything new to say. One notes especially G. P. Rodnan's illustration of the micro-circulation in scleroderma kidney (pp. 138–139) and the demonstration by E. Housset and his colleagues that various non-specific chromosomal anomalies are more common in scleroderma than in controls. B. Duperat's digital pulp biopsies (p. 223) and G. P. Rodnan's forearm skin punch biopsies (p. 271) offer further methods for histological, biochemical, and metabolic research. One is grateful also for F. Coste's clear and comprehensive final summing up of the proceedings.

Yet as a whole it must leave the reader dissatisfied. Is there no new message? Have all leads proved blind so far? Is the condition quite so fruitless to investigate as to treat? Have the epidemiologists nothing to teach us here?

Clearly the editor has chosen the most difficult of his topics as the subject of his first symposium, the real value of which may be in the formation of an international corresponding group of doctors and scientists interested in tackling this formidable problem.

A. ST. J. DIXON