

## Book reviews

**Mercer's Orthopaedic Surgery.** By R. B. DUTHIE and A. B. FERGUSON JR. 7th ed., 1973. Pp. 1236, 737 figs, 52 tab., index. Arnold, London (£25)

The standard reference textbook in any subject is a great responsibility for the author, particularly in a specialty expanding as rapidly as orthopaedics. The new edition of 'Mercer's Orthopaedics' is the first after the author's death and the editorship is now shared between Prof. R. B. Duthie, whose name is already associated with this textbook, and Prof. A. B. Ferguson. Both these people are internationally respected Orthopaedic Surgeons who jointly are able to bring a transatlantic approach to this edition.

In a subject as changing as orthopaedics, a textbook is almost out of date at the time of its publication, but the editors have very sensibly taken a conservative approach and their thoughts on aetiology, pathology, and management reflect established fact rather than up-to-date theory.

The chapter on the Basic Sciences has been re-written and considerably enlarged to include not only the anatomy and physiology of bone but also its biochemistry and mechanisms of calcification. A section on Joint Lubrication and Fractures is also included. This chapter is a good introduction to Orthopaedics for the undergraduate, and for the postgraduate student there is a thorough discussion of the fundamentals of his specialty, with a good reference section to support further reading. The section on the Congenital Deformities and Diseases of Development of Bone have been brought up to date and the bibliography enlarged. It is interesting to note how little alteration in the discussion of the Club Foot has occurred despite many new papers on the subject. This possibly reflects the maturity of the authors in their belief that treatments for this condition merely pass through unsatisfactory phases.

To the readers of a Journal concentrating mainly on arthritis and rheumatism, the sections on Acute Arthritis remains an up-to-date account of the manifestation and management of these diseases. The section on the Chronic Arthritides might be regarded as a little short for the student of this subject. As in the Club Foot problem, changes are so rapid and transitory that maturity in authorship is required to sift temporary enthusiasm from long-term contribution. The chapters deal with the observed facts linking the natural history and prognosis in the consideration of both medical and surgical treatment. The management of the rheumatoid knee is well reviewed as is also the section on Osteoarthritis of the Hip. Both sections emphasize the problems associated with total joint replacements providing a note of caution to an operation which has achieved epidemic popularity in the past few years.

The last two chapters deal with the important subjects of Amputations and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The latter, which is new to this edition, is written by P. J. R. Nichol who is an authority in this field. This subject is usually badly considered in orthopaedic textbooks and it is refreshing to read an up-to-date account of the principles of physical medicine and rehabilitation in which 'slap and tickle' is regarded as a treatment of the past. Physiotherapists may hope that Orthopaedic and Rheumatological Registrars may read the section and then review the criteria for the treatments that they advise.

A. CATTERALL

**Rheumatology. An Annual Review. Vol. 4. Oculo-cutaneous Manifestations of Rheumatic Diseases.** Edited by G. E. EHRLICH. 1973. Pp. 146, 54 figs, 9 tab. Karger, Basel (£7.60)

The systemic manifestations of rheumatic diseases are protean and always excite interest. In particular, lesions of the eyes, oral mucosa, and skin are readily apparent. Their appearance often leads to confusion in defining criteria for separating different syndromes. This has led Prof. Ehrlich, in an interested introduction, to speculate whether the differentiation of rheumatic diseases is meaningful and whether some might better be regarded as 'interfaces' between two disorders showing features of both.

In the chapter on ocular involvement, Prof. P. Henkind and Dr. D. H. Gold describe in great detail the changes complicating the rheumatic diseases and occurring as a result of treatment. In particular, there is a critical analysis of the data regarding blindness complicating polymyalgia rheumatica and temporal arteritis. Lacking, however, is much information on the pathology and pathogenesis of ocular complications.

The mouth contains a rich diversity of supportive, connective, vascular, and epithelial structures, so that it is hardly surprising that oral mucosal manifestations occur in rheumatic diseases. Dr. N. A. Cummings divides these into four groups.

First, there are those in which oral involvement is a necessary feature of the disease—Sjögren's syndrome and Behçet's syndrome. Second, there are the syndromes which have frequent and significant oral involvement—systemic lupus erythematosus, Reiter's syndrome, and systemic sclerosis. Third, there are those diseases in which oral manifestations may be present but are uncommon or not significantly related to the underlying condition. Fourth, there are the oral complications of drug therapy.

In each case there is a very careful clinical description. For example, it was most valuable to learn how to distinguish the forms of mucosal ulceration in Behçet's syndrome, Reiter's syndrome, and SLE.

The final chapter by Prof. W. M. Sams and Dr. W. S. Logan describes the skin as a reflector of immunological changes. The chapter is divided into four parts—cutaneous manifestations of the rheumatic diseases, immunological aspects of skin diseases, inflammatory vacuolitis, and cutaneous infections as a result of immune paresis. I found this to be the most interesting chapter. A few examples may be chosen. Antibodies to ultraviolet-irradiated DNA in SLE are discussed and their possible relevance to photosensitivity clearly emerges. Antibodies to the intercellular spaces of the epidermis have been found in pemphigus and to epithelial basement membranes in pemphigoid. The evidence for necrotizing vasculitis, polyarteritis nodosa, and Henoch-Schönlein purpura being due either to immune complex deposition or to antibodies directed at vascular tissues is reviewed.

The book is profusely illustrated but, in that it deals with essentially visual phenomena, it is a great pity that the pictures are not in colour. A full list of references is provided at the end of each chapter. This volume draws together a mass of useful information which otherwise is not readily available. It presents the current position in our understanding of these complications and indicates the areas of uncertainty and the likely directions for profitable research. It is strongly recommended.

MALCOLM I. V. JAYSON

**Vertebral Manipulation.** By G. D. MAITLAND. 3rd ed., 1973. Pp. 269. Butterworths, London (£5.50)

The third edition of this admirable book describing the manual treatments of mechanical derangements of the spine is welcome. The author, an experienced physiotherapist, is able to describe complex concepts and procedures clearly, aided by good simple line drawings. He describes the benefits to be obtained from manipulative techniques without the emotional and political overstatements to which some authors in this field are prone. Wisely, Mr. Maitland describes the treatments of various, easily recognizable, common spinal syndromes without being drawn into making hypothetical speculations as to their cause. The majority of the book is devoted to methods of treatment, and the important message is clearly conveyed that the gentler mobilizing procedures will often produce improvement without recourse to forcible manipulations.

The vital subject of diagnosis is dealt with in one short chapter. Both clinicians and physiotherapists being introduced to the subject need more guidance than is given.

A notable omission from the causes of spinal pain is polymyalgia rheumatica, a syndrome not infrequently exacerbated by lay manipulation. The necessity of screening doubtful and elderly patients by simple blood tests, such as the erythrocyte sedimentation rate, serum calcium, and phosphate and phosphatase levels, should be stressed even if the book is designed primarily for student physiotherapists. As in previous editions, the importance of routinely examining the plantar responses and the segmental representation of the tendon reflexes are omitted.

In general, however, the book can be recommended to physiotherapists and to clinicians seeking an introduction to the subject.

D. A. H. YATES

**Bone Loss in Normal and Pathological Conditions.** By JAN DEQUEKER. 1972. Pp. 214, 5 figs, 6 tab. Leuven University Press. (177 Belg. frs)

This is Dr. Dequeker's thesis published in paper-back form on good quality paper. Line drawings and even the few radiographs are well reproduced.

The main part of this work is a very detailed study of the second metacarpal as shown in *x* rays of the hand. From large series of normal subjects, including various racial types, he reports normal ranges for several indices for measurement of the amount of cortex and medulla of this bone. Using his age and sex-specific normal data, he goes on to investigate the ability of his methods to distinguish from normal a variety of well-known skeletal disorders, such as osteoporosis, hyperparathyroidism, acromegaly, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Other parts of the thesis deal with results of measurements on *x* rays of the vertebral column, chemical composition of bone obtained from iliac crest biopsy, and the effects of age and sex on the normal ranges of various biochemical measurements, such as serum and urinary calcium and phosphate and urinary hydroxyproline.

Throughout there is an emphasis on normal age-effects. The text is very clearly written, and all results are clearly shown, with full statistical support, in tables and line drawings.

This book will be very useful to the researcher studying metabolic bone disease, whether radiologist, biochemist, or clinician. It is not in any sense a broadly-based text-book for the general practitioner.

G. F. JOPLIN