

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