Book reviews

L'Actualité Rhumatologique 1974, Présentée au Practicien. By Les Médecins du Centre Viggo Petersen, under the direction of S. de Sèze, A. Ryckewaert, M.-F. Kahn, and C. Vitale. 1975. Pp. 304, 47 figs. Expansion Scientifique, Paris (F. Fr. 116.50)

The eleventh volume of this annual review covers the rheumatological advances and talking points of 1974. This series has the advantage of continuity, in that it is entirely written by the medical staff of the Centre Viggo Petersen under the direction of Professor de Sèze, and also that it regularly appears on time before becoming outdated.

In addition, there are a number of brief articles on a wide range of rheumatological subjects. Thus this volume does not in itself claim to be a comprehensive textbook but rather a 'recent advances' and review volume which adds to its predecessors in covering the field of rheumatology. It successfully contains brief, authoritative, and practical accounts on various topics principally for the general practitioner and those not engaged in specialist rheumatological practice.

This volume contains important and useful sections on therapy and its consequences, including the use of aspirin, immunosuppressives, and diphosphonates. The specialist investigation of the rheumatic diseases is covered in articles on radiology of the knee, complement and immunoglobulin levels in rheumatoid disease, and isotopic bone scanning.

The authoritative reviews include chapters on psoriatic arthropathy, Behçet's syndrome, ankylosing spondylitis and HLA-27, and destructive arthropathy associated with chondrocalcinosis articularis. Each section is usefully supported by an adequate bibliography. The practical nature of this series is balanced by articles on the pathology and biology of diseases of the connective tissues.

One might comment that the present volume gives an unbalanced view of current rheumatology but it must be remembered that this edition complements its predecessors and presumably will be followed by others.

This is a well-produced, useful, and concise paperbacked volume, written in French, which will be of use to all interested in the subject. Once again one must wonder whether a similar series should be produced in English.

COLIN G. BARNES

Bréviaire de Rhumatologie. By Les Médecins de la Clinique Rhumatologique de l'Hôpital Lariboisière (Centre Viggo Petersen), under the direction of S. de Sèze, M. Caroit, M.-F. Kahn, and M. Lesquesne. 4th ed., 1975. Pp. 503, 276 figs. Expansion Scientifique, Paris (F. Fr. 175)

In English a breviary is the book of the daily Divine Office of the Roman Catholic Church, but in that the word is

derived from the Latin *breviarium*, a summary, this title accurately describes this volume. It is indeed a summary of rheumatology, in the French language, covering the field concisely and comprehensively. The revision of this edition includes the addition of ten new chapters, which now number 49, and careful updating of existing chapters.

One is initially confused by eventually finding the table of contents at the end of the book after the alphabetical index. The first section, comprising five chapters, covers the general principles of anatomy, pathology, and immunology. There then follow sections dealing with the inflammatory arthropathies, crystal deposition diseases, and connective tissue disorders. These are in the accepted pattern of most textbooks describing the clinical manifestations, laboratory and radiological investigations, pathology, and treatment. The style of each chapter, despite the number of authors involved, is concise but complete, dogmatic but practical. The latter is shown especially in the sections on treatment and also on clinical examination. In addition, two chapters deal with the method of diagnosing an inflammatory arthropathy, one devoted to monarticular disease and the other to polyarthritides in adults.

Surprisingly there is no chapter describing the clinical and pathological manifestations of osteoarthritis. Instead there are sections arranged anatomically (shoulder and upper limb, hip, knee, and foot) within which are chapters on osteoarthritis of these joints and also, among others, on infectious arthritis of the hip, avascular necrosis, and the painful shoulder syndrome. Degenerative spinal disease and radiculopathies, metabolic bone disease, and neoplasms of bone and synovium all receive adequate description.

Most chapters are supported by an adequate bibliography, largely drawn from the French literature. Thus this volume has two different goals. First it is a text summarizing the field of rheumatology, and secondly it provides a guide to the practical approach to a problem as presented in clinical practice. The latter is shown in the chapter on 'The Painful Knee Excluding Osteoarthritis'. The fact that this is now produced as a single hardbacked volume and also as 11 paperbacked booklets, indicates the appeal that it is hoped this work will have for students.

This practical approach is a most useful method of teaching as is the section on the inflammatory arthropathies and connective tissue diseases. The possible failing is the way in which the other subjects are covered.

COLIN G. BARNES

Joint Disease: All the Arthropathies. By E. C. HUSKISSON and F. DUDLEY HART. 2nd ed., 1975. Pp. 160. Wright, Bristol (£3.25)

The first edition of this book was reviewed rather sternly in the *Annals* when it was published in 1973. The appear-