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Viggo Petersen under the direction of Professor de Sèze, and also that it regularly appears on time before becoming outdated.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 *brevarium*, 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-

ance of a second edition within two years, however, may reflect great demand, or else a laudable desire on the authors' part to keep it up to date. The absence of a foreword does not help to clarify this point, but at least ensures careful scrutiny to detect the changes, which include additions, subtractions, and some alterations in the classification and text. Added features include a list of drugs used in the treatment of rheumatic diseases, a short glossary of rheumatological jargon, and a classification of the causes of back pain. Several conditions have been added, ranging from the articular manifestations of infective endocarditis and Meleni joint disease to the intriguing gamekeeper's thumb, traveller's ankle, and back-pocket sciatica. Costen's syndrome, no longer regarded as an entity, has now no individual entry but is mentioned in the section on 'Temporomandibular Joint Disorders'.

The format of the book is unchanged. It provides a clear summary of the main features of the various conditions, listed in alphabetical order, and at least one reference is given for each, although the titles of the articles are not included nor has the list of references been expanded. This style provides a useful, crisp synopsis of the articular manifestations of rarer diseases, but, as I am sure the authors are aware, is much less suitable for the major rheumatic disorders. For example, the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis is condensed to four short paragraphs and while this must represent a considerable feat on the authors' part, the result may be misleading to the undiscerning. Many rheumatologists would decline to prescribe 600 mg hydroxychloroquine daily on a long-term basis and perhaps in subsequent editions penicillamine may not be listed first among the drugs recommended for suppression of disease activity.

I am sure that the originality of this book will continue to ensure its popularity, for its appeal is not only to rheumatologists but to a much wider public and this is to be commended.

T. M. CHALMERS

Laboratory Diagnostic Procedures in the Rheumatic Diseases. Edited by ALAN S. COHEN. 2nd ed., 1975. Pp. iix + 433, illustrated, tabs. Little, Brown, Boston (£11.25)

This is the second edition of a book originally published in 1967, in which the clinical relevance of various laboratory procedures used in rheumatology is discussed and detailed descriptions are given of laboratory methods for many of these tests. The book has been extensively revised and a new chapter on 'Complement' has been added.

In the preface, the Editor expresses the hope that the book will have 'broad appeal to clinicians and investigators as well as to clinical pathologists and technicians'. It is a difficult task to aim a book successfully at such a wide readership and the Editor never quite makes up his mind whether the book should be a laboratory manual or a factual textbook.

There are, however, some very good chapters, including that by Friou and Quismorio on 'The LE Cell Factor and Antinuclear Antibodies'. Seegmiller contributes an excellent chapter on 'Serum Uric Acid', with a helpful discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of the

various methods available for measuring uric acid. Not everyone, however, would agree with him that the incidence of myocardial infarction in gouty patients provides 'a more urgent reason for the adequate control of the concentration of serum urate in the gouty patient'. The Editor's two chapters on 'Synovial Fluid' and on 'The Diagnosis of Amyloidosis' are both well written and useful.

In this type of book it is obviously difficult to decide what to include and what to omit, but it is hard to see the justification for devoting complete chapters to both 'The Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate' and to 'C-Reactive Protein'. The long chapter on streptococcal antibodies in the diagnosis of rheumatic fever could with benefit have been shortened. Cooper in his chapter on 'Histopathology' sensibly confines his discussion to information which can be obtained from biopsy. Even so, he is faced with describing in 50 pages what others have described in books and the chapter becomes a catalogue of pathological changes.

Like so many multiple author books, the style and standard are uneven, but repetition and contradiction are largely avoided. The presentation of the text and the diagrams is clear, and extensive references are included. Unfortunately, the reproduction of the photomicrographs is of such poor quality that many are valueless. I did not find the 'capsulated overview' at the beginning of each chapter of much benefit.

In spite of these criticisms, this book should prove useful, particularly to clinicians and laboratory workers in a general hospital environment. However, at £11.25 it is expensive.

ANNE NICHOLLS

Rheumatology for Clinicians. By W. JEFFREY FESSEL. 1975. Pp. 312. Stratton Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation, New York (U.S. \$19.75)

This book is to be highly recommended not only to those who practise rheumatology but to those who preach it—the academics. It is essentially a personal account of disease-reactions, well illustrated by closely observed case records, covering not only the sort of case that reaches hospital but also the 'rheumatick' complainer, who, in this country at least, is dealt with often successfully by wise general practitioners. An average of eight case records per clinical chapter are given, often of outstanding interest by any standards: this is not surprising since they are selected from the rheumatological problems of 100 000 adults seen annually for 10 years, aided by the sophisticated hardware (and software too) of the Kaiser-Permanente Medical Center in San Francisco. Interesting epidemiological data (e.g. on the incidence and distribution of SLE) are presented, based on the ascertainment among the population sample of Kaiser-Permanente registrations. There are 746 recent references, many excellent illustrations, and a synopsis of clinical immunology in 4½ pages!

This highly original and fascinating book aims to restore the clinical virtues of practice, of recent years in danger of being devalued by undue dependence on laboratory (so-called) 'parameters'.

E. G. L. BYWATERS