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 Msceleni 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 use 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


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 be useful, particularly to clinicians and laboratory workers in a general hospital environment. However, at £11.25 it is expensive.

ANNE NICHOLLS


This book is to be highly recommended not only to those who practise rheumatology but to those who preach it—the academicians. 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 'rheumatic' 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 100000 adults seen annually for 10 years, aided by the sophisti-
cated 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 47 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