that total serum Cu, direct-reacting and Cp, increases as a primary response to inflammation and decreases in remission. We believe that these are highly significant events in the course of RA and other connective tissue diseases.

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Book reviews

Inherited Biochemical Disorders and Uric Acid Metabolism. By David S. Newcombe. 1975. Pp. 282; illustrated. HM & M Publishers, Aylesbury. (£12.00)

The author is Director of the Rheumatology Unit in the University of Vermont College of Medicine; his interest in the field, although supported by little in the way of original observations, has led him to assemble this review of inherited biochemical disorders which influence uric acid metabolism. It consists of 36 short chapters, brief initial accounts of blood uric acid concentration, purine biochemistry, and uric acid disposal being followed by a number of chapters, some only a page or two in length, each dealing with the various individual conditions; these include diseases ranging from the Lesch-Nyhan syndrome and glycogen storage disorders, which have been reasonably well studied, to extreme rarities, such as lecithin: cholesterol acyltransferase deficiency, where an association with hyperuricaemia is ill-documented.

For the clinician the book is a reminder of the numerous associations (or at least some of them, since the work is limited to endogenous biochemical disorders only) which must be remembered in the diagnosis and assessment of a patient with an abnormal uric acid metabolism. The basic investigator is given a source of detailed references, if he does not already have them from his own reading. Much of the information, however, is already available in larger texts (such as Stanbury, Wyngaarden, and Fredrickson's 'The Metabolic Basis of Inherited Disease') and there will probably be few, in this country at any rate, wishing to pay £12.00 for such a relatively specialized monograph.

J. T. SCOTT

Clinical Rheumatology. A Problem-oriented Approach. By Roland W. Moskowitz. 1975. Pp. xii+331; illustrated. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia; Kimpton, London (£7.00)

This volume adopts an original approach in presenting clinical rheumatology. Following initial chapters on history taking, physical examination, laboratory studies,

and diagnostic techniques, are chapters describing the differential diagnosis, investigation, and treatment of the modes of presentation of rheumatic diseases both as arthritis and as nonarticular disease. Finally, there are sections on the specific treatment of particular rheumatological disorders and on the use of remedial therapy and local injections.

The structure of the book leads to a tremendous amount of repetition. One reads about the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis in chapters on acute monarthritis, acute polyarthritis, subacute and chronic polyarthritis, and intermittent arthritis. As a result little detail is presented on any one topic. For example, in the chapter on acute polyarthritis, rheumatic fever, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, gonococcal arthritis, Reiter's syndrome, rubella polyarthropathy, the arthritis of ulcerative colitis, regional enteritis, and sarcoid are all described in about three pages. In some instances the order seems curious. For example, in the chapter on subacute and chronic polyarthritis, osteoarthritis is sandwiched between mixed connective tissue disease and psoriatic arthropathy. One advantage of the amount of repetition is that cross-referencing becomes unnecessary.

At the end of each chapter are a series of case reports. Although interesting, it is not clear what purpose they serve, and I suspect usually they will be skipped. With each chapter is a useful list of references.

A few points of criticism are that I do not recognize the description of arthritis associated with carcinomata, nor do I agree with the prescription of prednisone 20 mg/d for acute attacks of episodic rheumatoid arthritis. In the chapter on specific treatment of common rheumatological disorders it is surprising that there is no mention of D-penicillamine for rheumatoid arthritis and progressive systemic sclerosis. Surgical indications and techniques are dealt with in eight lines.

This book is useful in elucidating the differential diagnosis of presenting features of rheumatic diseases. Because it is repetitive and lacking in detail I think it unlikely that it will appeal to the rheumatologist, but it will be of value to the general physician and general practitioner.

M. I. V. JAYSON