

painful muscle; weak muscle; disturbed skeletal growth; osteopenias; hyperostoses. Joint diseases are classified as due to infection, e.g. gonorrhoea, or as noninfectious and finally as noninflammatory, which for no clear reason is taken to include gout and pseudogout. Finally a short but useful chapter on backache completes the clinical section and five tables usefully summarize the laboratory data most frequently required in clinical practice.

As an introduction to rheumatology this book can be warmly recommended. It is clearly written, well illustrated, and contains the distilled experience of two leading rheumatologists embracing both the clinical and laboratory aspects of the subject.

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An Introduction to Clinical Rheumatology. Edited by MICHAEL MASON and H. L. F. CURREY. 2nd ed., 1976. Pp. viii × 379, illustrated. Pitman Medical, Tunbridge Wells. (£7.00).

The first edition of this textbook was published in 1970 (reviewed in the *Annals* in January 1971) when there was a great dearth of short texts for undergraduates. Five years has seen a marked change in the situation but the demand for this text from the London Hospital is so great that a second edition, preserving the same format, with only relatively minor changes has proved necessary. The book is read by postgraduates as much as undergraduates, outside the United Kingdom more than in it. Editorial policy has taken note of this.

A clear, concise chapter on the applied anatomy of joints by Dr. B. Vernon-Roberts now opens the book, and there are cross references to it in the text. Many clinicians hold joint clinics with interested orthopaedic

surgeons, and junior staff should find the chapter by M. A. R. Freeman on operative surgery and that by B. A. Roper on bacterial infection most useful. It is helpful to have a short review of the psychiatric and psychological aspects of disease even though space is at a premium in a compact textbook. Selected references to review articles, editorials, and major articles are helpful. Rightly, as there are now several good primers of immunology, no attempt has been made to cover the immunological field. Nevertheless, mention has been made of the recent relevant findings in tissue typing and immunological research.

The book is masterly, balanced, and useful for undergraduates, membership candidates, and general medical readers, among others. Diseases are clearly documented and treatment succinctly presented. It might be argued that there is insufficient space to expand on clinical presentations and functional problems of disease in an undergraduate textbook, yet it can be helpful to the newcomer to the speciality to be given some idea of the pattern of joint involvement, the functional effects of this, that those with (say) osteoarthritis of the carpometacarpal joint of the thumb have difficulty in screwing, turning taps, door knobs, and such. Further, the physician prescribing physiotherapy in joint disease should be conversant with the range of treatments available and their specific values and should not leave all decisions to remedial staff. It is symptomatic of our sad ignorance of low back pain that while it makes up a large part of any clinician's practice, present knowledge can be accommodated on 7 pages of the text.

These criticisms are minor and are of current practice as much as of this excellent text. The second edition will undoubtedly prove as successful as its predecessor.

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Notes

New HLA Nomenclature

Under the auspices of the World Health Organization and the International Union of Immunological Societies, a nomenclature committee met in July 1975 and established for each histocompatibility antigen an alpha-numeric system of letters and numbers that includes a letter designation for the locus, followed by a number unique for each antigen.

Readers are referred to *Transplant Proc.*, 1976, 8, 109 (WHO-IUIS terminology committee nomenclature for factors of the HL-A system), or *Bull. World Health Organ.*, 1975, 52, 261 (Nomenclature for factors of the HLA system). A short explanatory leading article appears in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 1976, 294, 1005.

Acknowledgment of manuscripts

Henceforward papers submitted to the *Annals* will not be acknowledged upon receipt unless accompanied by a stamped, addressed postcard or, in the case of overseas authors, an international reply paid coupon.