

an accompanying text dealing with the X-rays themselves and with the underlying conditions. The method appears to have been successful, and the second edition maintains the original format, although otherwise revised and re-edited.

The 4 volume work covers all aspects of skeletal radiology, and also includes sections on radionuclide skeletal imaging, radiation therapy in skeletal disorders, and special techniques in orthopaedic radiography. At least until recently, most radiologists have had little critical experience of rheumatic diseases, and standards of reporting have tended to be low. In their section on rheumatic diseases (a small part of the whole work), however, Murray and Jacobson provide an accurate and comprehensive atlas of radiographic abnormalities in rheumatology. While the size, scope, and price of the book will make it unsuitable for individual purchase by most rheumatologists in this country, they should see that it is in their hospital or medical school library, where they will find it a most useful reference work.

J. T. SCOTT

Immunology of the Rheumatic Diseases. By R. N. Maini, D. N. Glass, and J. T. Scott. (Pp. 146; illustrated+tables. £5.95.) Current Topics in Immunology Series No. 7. Arnold: London. 1977. This small volume encompasses a wide

range of information concerning the immunological abnormalities which are encountered in the connective tissue diseases. The format has been arranged in a logical manner which ensures easy but stimulating reading. The first section of the book provides a succinct but informative account of the biological aspects of the immune response and outlines the various mechanisms which can lead to tissue injury. The occurrence of autoantibodies and the cellular immune response to autoantigens in the connective tissue diseases are discussed. There follows a chapter dealing with the various methods of immunological investigation which should be of particular value to clinicians without experience of immunological techniques.

The second and major section of the book deals with the various immunological phenomena which occur in the individual connective tissue diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjögren's syndrome, polymyositis, and polyarteritis nodosa. Other vasculitic diseases such as giant cell (temporal) arteritis and Behçet's syndrome are also discussed. Other chapters deal with arthritis associated with infections, such as rheumatic fever and meningococcal arthritis; cellular immune reactivity with biochemically defined proteoglycans in relapsing polychondritis and Takayasu's disease is also discussed. In

each subsection dealing with individual diseases or groups of diseases there is a useful bibliography of references to key publications. The final part of the second section deals with various forms of therapy which are available for the connective tissue diseases. It is perhaps unfortunate that the value of a simple drug such as aspirin in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis is not mentioned along with other potentially more toxic drugs, but presumably this was outside the authors' immunological brief.

The book concludes with a short but useful section on the role of genetic factors in susceptibility to rheumatic disease. This is particularly appropriate in view of the increasing evidence that genetic predisposition may be important in the connective tissue diseases, as exemplified by the occurrence of HLA B27 in ankylosing spondylitis.

In summary, this is a welcome addition to the 'Current Topics in Immunology' series and should afford stimulating reading for rheumatologists without a formal training in immunology and for immunologists detached from the clinical scene. For its small size this relatively inexpensive book provides a comprehensive account of the immunological aspects of the rheumatic diseases: and Dr. Maini and his colleagues are to be congratulated on their achievement.

J. N. MCCORMICK

Notes

8th Mexican Congress of Rheumatology

March 1-5, 1978, Mexico City and Ixtapa

Official languages will be Spanish and English with simultaneous translation throughout the congress. Information from Sociedad Mexicana de Reumatología, Plateros 76, México 19, D.F., México.

Vth International Conference on Immunofluorescence and Related Staining Techniques

April 6-8, 1978, Vienna

The programme will include symposia, workshops, poster sessions, and a scientific exhibition with special emphasis on practical demonstrations. The number of participants is limited to 300. For further information contact Dr. W. Knapp, c/o Wiener Medizinische Akademie, Alser Strasse 4, A-1090 Wien, Austria.