

well on this occasion. This praise for Dr. Mowat is not, of course, simply because he has written his own chapter so well. I congratulate him in the main for his judgment in choosing a superb team, who between them have produced a book well worth reading. The task it seems was to highlight modern concepts in the surgical management of rheumatoid arthritis for a medically orientated readership. The details and technicalities of surgery have been reduced to the minimum compatible with a clear understanding of what surgeons can now offer. It is, though, the much broader and more colourful canvas that holds one's attention. Where else, for example, can one read such an authoritative and interesting account of the financial implications of joint replacement for the national health?

Only the chapter headed 'Radio-synoviorthes' puzzled me. No doubt all readers of the *Annals* are familiar with this, I certainly was not, but I still wonder why treatment with intra-articular radio-colloids was considered sufficiently 'surgical' for inclusion.

This excellent book serves to underline the value of co-operation between physician and surgeon in the management of rheumatoid arthritis, and it can be unreservedly recommended to physicians who wish to enter the penultimate decade of this century fully conversant with this rapidly developing branch of orthopaedic surgery.

RODNEY SWEETNAM

**Joint Disease: All the Arthropathies.** 3rd edition. E. C. Huskisson and F. D. Hart. Pp. 158. £5.00. John Wright: Bristol, 1978.

The new edition of this small reference book makes its appearance once again in paperback form. It has been revised to include a new introductory section on range of movement of joints and the addition of some 32 new sections in the listed conditions.

The first few pages of the book form an introductory section comprising a classification of conditions, a summarised

scheme of history and examination procedure, synovial fluid aspiration and analysis technique, and a simple guide to rheumatic drugs. Half a page is devoted to rheumatological jargon which for some reason omits a definition of arthritis while listing some more obvious terms. It is a pity that there is no section on investigations in this part of the book other than that on synovial fluid.

The bulk of the text is devoted to a summary of each condition arranged in alphabetical order, giving the format of a small encyclopaedia of rheumatic disorders. Each topic is dealt with concisely in note form with advice on treatment being necessarily didactic. References to further reading remain disappointingly few, which is unfortunate since the arrangement of the text often leads to wasted space. Important new sections have been added, including Sudeck's atrophy, Osgood-Schlatter's disease, and Morton's metatarsalgia as well as the more recently described conditions of mixed connective tissue disease and eosinophilic fasciitis. Other sections have been modified in the light of recent knowledge. The new addition of deep vein thrombosis seems a little strange, since the condition actually described is that of ruptured popliteal cyst and would be better classified as such.

Some noteworthy and interestingly named conditions have been added to the section on occupational arthropathies, including family planner's fingers, Zulu dancer's hip, and weaver's bottom. Also worthy of mention are genu amoris, which may occur in the sexual athlete, and tennis leg, which may occur in the cricketer, a case having been described in Dr W. G. Grace after making 60 runs at Lords in 1884.

This book makes no attempt to be anything other than in 'aide mémoire' and as such is highly recommended for the practising rheumatologist as well as the interested clinician in any field of medicine, as it is a source of rapidly available essential information. I only hope that the next edition contains more references.

BRIAN BOURKE

**You Asked about Rheumatoid Arthritis.** Edited by H. S. Robinson. Pp. 120. \$4.95. Douglas and McIntyre: Vancouver, 1978.

Three of us read this book—a psychologist doing a great deal of interviewing of rheumatoid patients, an articulate young woman with rheumatoid arthritis, and myself. All of us were impressed with its format, compact size, clear print, and excellent layout. We were unanimous in applauding the production of such a book designed to answer the numerous questions patients with a chronic disease must have, realising that only rarely can they expect to have all these answered at the right time by professionals.

The treatment of patients is obviously much the same in Canada as in Britain, and therefore the sections dealing with management (in terms of drugs, physiotherapy, splintage, and surgery) are most useful. The chapter on symptoms and diagnosis is clear and relevant. Sections having a social or environmental content are less relevant to the UK: the list of voluntary agencies in the UK is limited to the ARC, excludes the BRA, and does not indicate any sources of help. No mention is made of the Disabled Living Foundation or of aids centres, of allowances such as the mobility allowance, the disablement resettlement officer, and the fares-to-work scheme. The section on work needs enlargement and adaptation.

Sometimes questions are phrased in a way unnatural to many British patients. Does the psychological side-effect accompanying rheumatoid arthritis have a cumulative reaction upon the rheumatoid arthritis itself? Sometimes the answers appear patronising to the layman. The sections on children and on motherhood could have been expanded with advantage. Nevertheless, the book (perhaps indexed in the second edition) would be useful for patients to browse through as they await their consultations and in reminding them of what was said.

ANNE CHAMBERLIN