most startling omission is that there is not a chapter on arthritis in children, though there is passing reference to 'Still's disease' in one or two chapters. A bibliography is given at the end of the book but without references being quoted in the text, and it therefore is presumably intended as a guide to further reading. Such a bibliography is necessarily short and consists mainly of textbooks and review articles.

The use of this book, therefore, should be considered by those seeking to learn of the diagnostic approach to a specific rheumatological problem rather than as a comprehensive textbook.

C. G. BARNES

The Shoulder and Neck. James E. Bateman. Pp. 790. £32.75. Holt-Sanders: Eastbourne. 1978.

Here is everything we need to know about the shoulder and neck, starting with evolution and embryology of the region and finishing up with disability assessment and 'Guidelines to Testifying'—instructions about being an expert witness in court. The transatlantic flavour imparted by the attention given to the latter topic is also found in the chapter on athletic injuries, where of course baseball and softball are discussed to the exclusion of cricket. With golf and swimming we are on common ground, also, unfortunately, in the chapters on automobile and industrial injuries.

Dr J. C. Bateman has written his book from his standpoint as an eminent orthopaedic surgeon. He has 25 years of special interest in the shoulder joint, having, for example, performed over 1000 operations to repair a torn rotator cuff. In the light of this massive experience the diagnosis and management of localised anatomical lesions are admirably discussed, and I look forward to using the book as a reference work. On more medical, metabolic, and systemic disorders his touch is less sure, and there are a number of errors ('calcium thyrophosphate dehydrate,' etc.). The inclusion of conditions like scleroderma and systemic lupus erythematosus (without, incidentally, mentioning osteonecrosis, an occasional feature of SLE—and what is periarteric 'fibrosis in the spine'?) in a book devoted to the shoulder and neck seems a little bizarre, but emphasises the enthusiastic and comprehensive way in which the author has approached his task.

J. T. SCOTT

Clinics in Rheumatic Diseases: Extra-articular Manifestations of Rheumatoid Arthritis. Vol. 3, No. 3. (Ed.) Rodney Bluestone and Paul A Bacon. Pp. 606. £10.00. Saunders: Eastbourne. 1977

If rheumatoid disease were confined to the joints perhaps rheumatology would never have emerged as a specialty, such is the interest in the extra-articular manifestations of this disease. Perhaps it is for this reason that I read this edition of *Clinics in Rheumatic Diseases* with some disappointment. The high standards of this series of publications are continued and the subjects are usually covered thoroughly, if in a somewhat pedestrian manner,

in the form of a review of the literature (of which there is already too much: some of it should be buried, not reviewed). Doubtless the time schedule for *Clinics in Rheumatic Diseases* needs to be more exact than other multiauthor books. This, together with the distance apart of the editors and the well known difficulty in persuading authors to write about what they are asked to in sufficient time to enable the editors to provide some criticism and cohesion, doubtless put a particular burden on Drs Bluestone and Bacon.

The word 'clinic' implies looking after patients, but relatively little attention is given to treatment. It is certainly easier to be precise about the happenings in a test-tube than about the effects of a drug upon a sufferer. For this reason the views of experienced rheumatologists on treatment would have been of great value, even if unsupported by unassailable evidence. Little is said about common conditions such as carpal tunnel compression or the neurological complications of cervical spine disease.

There is now so much to be read that publishers, editors, and authors alike should pay more attention to making their efforts interesting and readable. For instance, the sentence 'granulomas have been associated with uncomplicated pericarditis, with cardiac tamponade, and constrictive pericarditis' is clear if not profound. When broken up in three places by 9 references it becomes soporific. The succinct, if not always melodious, American colloquialisms might enliven medical articles. Alas, the same turgid style is used on both sides of the Atlantic. These remarks are not designed to discourage you from reading the book. It is full of information.

A. B. MYLES

Soft Tissues of the Extremities: A Radiologic Study of Rheumatic Disease. W. J. Weston and D. G. Palmer. Pp. 128. DM68. Springer-Verlag: Berlin. 1978.

Although for many years it has been recognised that rheumatoid arthritis is primarily a disease of soft tissues, the attention of most radiologists and others has been mainly focused on the changes which occur in bones. However, for over 10 years W. J. Weston has been concentrating his attention on the radiological appearances of the soft tissue changes in the rheumatic diseases, and has published many of his findings either in the *British Journal of Radiology* or the *Journal of Australasian Radiology*. These papers form the basis of this book.

After a short introduction, describing some of the technical factors involved in obtaining good radiographs, there is a description of the kind of changes which may be looked for in the soft tissues and their pathological significance. The appearances of lymphatic oedema, rheumatoid nodules, enlarged lymph nodes and joint effusions are described. The book is then divided into chapters based on individual joints. First the normal anatomy is described and then the soft tissue changes which may be seen in and around the joint in rheumatoid arthritis and other soft tissue disorders. The technique and value of arthrography and injection into synovial sheaths is discussed when appropriate.

It seems likely that many of the soft tissue changes described, such as joint effusions, enlarged lymph nodes, rheumatoid nodules, and oedema of the soft tissues, may be evident clinically, so that their demonstration by radiological means may not give additional information or help with the management of the patient. Indeed, one is left wondering about the practical importance of many of the changes described. However, there is no doubt that the radiology of the soft tissues has been neglected, and this book may well do something to overcome that deficiency.

J. W. LAWS

The Care of Rheumatic Children. Monograph Series No. 3. (Ed.) E. Munthe. Pp. 205. (No price). EULAR: Basle. 1978.

1977 was designated World Rheumatism Year. An EULAR and WHO workshop on the care of rheumatic children was held in Oslo with 140 participants, mostly from Europe, and this monograph summarises the various sessions and papers. The subjects covered include aspects of classification and diagnosis of juvenile chronic arthritis, its complications and prognosis, the current medical and surgical treatment, particularly synovectomy, and some organisational aspects of care. The first half of the monograph consists of 2- to 3-page summaries of the round table sessions written by an appointed member of each panel. It is a sensible and effective device for merging several papers and their discussion on a particular subject into a single balanced account.

The second half of the monograph consists of 97 abstracts of the individual papers, and the booklet concludes with an index. Primarily intended as a reminder for those who were present, it will also be of interest to those paediatric rheumatologists, especially outside Europe, who were unable to attend. They will welcome the survey of current work.

HERBERT BARRIE

Compendia Rheumatologica: Characteristic Features of the Most Important Rheumatic Diseases: A Practical Diagnostic Guide. Ed. H. Mathies. Pp. 98. No price. Eular Publishers: Basle. 1977.

This well produced booklet is said to be intended for the general practitioner. It covers the common rheumatic diseases and makes some reference to the rarer forms. It is written to some extent in note form with an appendix summarising the information. Its style might be described as 'problem orientated'. A brief description of the disease is followed by laboratory and radiological findings and then lists of findings which preclude, confirm, or cast doubt on the diagnosis, with advice about how the clinician should proceed.

It is well thought out, reasonably accurate, and generally non-controversial. Although it is short, it goes into a considerable amount of detail, frequently in the form of lists, which may not readily be understood or make easy reading for the general practitioner to whom it is aimed, who might well find that one of the shorter more orthodox textbooks in rheumatology would be more helpful.

I think it would be more likely to be of use to medical students than general practitioners, though it contains more detail than the average student in the UK would expect to acquire. For the rheumatologist it is an interesting approach to the subject, but he would be more likely to gain useful information elsewhere.

A. B. MYLES

Diseases of Connective Tissue. The Proceedings of a Symposium organised by the Royal College of Pathologists. Ed. D. L. Gardner. Pp. 241. £6.00. British Medical Association: London. 1978.

The Royal College of Pathologists sponsored this symposium in February 1978. The Proceedings are aimed at providing a selected and selective view of important contemporary areas of knowledge in a series of up-to-date authoritative reviews.

The material consists of 7 principal sections and 25 individual chapters. It is difficult to select individual chapters for mention. The first 2 sections consider the fundamental morphological features and properties of the cellular and extracellular materials making up connective tissues. The paper on basement membrane morphology, turnover, biochemistry, and metabolism (Ireland) provided information of particular value that is not otherwise readily available. The next section deals with fundamental disease mechanisms. Two of the chapters (Levene, and Pope and Nicholls) are on abnormalities of the collagen molecule, but there is considerable duplication between them. Under the heading of genetic disease there is a paper on the HLA system (Brewerton), but unfortunately only the briefest mention is made of the current studies of DR antigens in rheumatoid arthritis. In the mucopolysaccharidoses (Dean) replacement of the deficient enzymes can be achieved by transplanting histocompatible fibroblasts. The biochemical responses are described, but it is not clear whether this procedure is of clinical value. There is a series of papers on inflammation and fibrosis, and in each the authors have taken a challenging title, defending the thesis that rheumatoid arthritis is a virus disease (Denman), systemic lupus erythematosus is an immune disease (Holborow), and other topics. In a further section on structural and metabolic disease the authors have presented 'new knowledge' of other rheumatological topics such as connective tissue aging (Schofield and Weightman), osteoarthritis (Ali), intervertebral disc disease (Ball), gout (Scott), and chondrocalcinosis (Dieppe). On the occasion of this meeting Charles Levene gave the Kettle memorial lecture on atherosclerosis, which is also produced here. Finally, the editor has brought together in a summary an attempt to rationalise the approach to connective tissue diseases. This is a provocative chapter stimulating many ideas for future research.

Most of the information presented here has been published previously, but the editor and the authors are to be congratulated on gathering it together so rapidly and presenting it in such an interesting and challenging form. This volume is to be recommended.

MALCOLM I. V. JAYSON