traditionalist, Philip's intellectual engagement led him to be intrigued by the contradictions in reality, of which the ambiguities and conflicts confronting a doctor in his obligations to both individual patients and the state is an example. A moving

service for the life and work of this very unusual person was held in London in November, and many friends and associates attended to express their feeling of loss.

PHILIP WOOD

Book reviews

Pathogenic Streptococci. Proceedings of 7th International Symposium on Streptococci and Streptococcal Diseases held in September 1978 at Oxford. Ed. M. T. Parker. Pp. 296. £21.00. Reedbooks: Chertsey. 1979.

This large book of 296 pages, with index, has been edited to include part of the communications offered at the Oxford (1978) symposium. This was the seventh symposium, and the editor gives references to the recorded proceedings of the second, third, and fifth symposia. Presumably the first, fourth, and sixth sank without trace. This symposium was obviously organised *by* bacteriologists *for* bacteriologists, but clinicians will find it enormously interesting in parts. Rheumatic fever has almost disappeared in the West and research has lagged; its results are increasingly difficult to find. It is therefore useful to find some at least of them summarised here. There seems to be no breakthrough (or if so your reviewer was unable to recognise it), but there were many interesting advances and some surprising omissions.

Professor Sir Robert Williams gives a critical introduction. The Rockefeller University continues its inherited Lancefield interests with studies on M protein by Fischetti, and another by Zabriskie and Maclyn McCarty, offering an interesting if negative study on graft rejection. Beachey and Stollerman from Memphis, Dorfman and Fox from Chicago, Cromartie and Schwab from Chapel Hill, Wannamaker from Minneapolis, Maxted from Colindale, and Ayoub from Gainesville, Florida, provide a link with the work of past generations. But most other contributors span the world, indicating perhaps where streptococcal problems have now surfaced.

It seems a pity that there is no discussion, because the standard offered is very variable and there is no summing up. A few papers are of the 'me too' variety (Rheumatic fever in Ruritania) but for the most part this is a record of the application of new techniques to the many varieties of streptococci and the varying human and animal responses thereto. As such it is obviously required reading for streptococcolologists. It is also of very considerable interest to clinicians working in this field and to research workers in general, who can find peripatetic challenge in many different fields—carrier states, graft rejection, cross-reactivity, indigestible antigens, phage-induced toxins, persistent clonotypes, cell-mediated immunity, dental disease, plasmid-controlled resistance, and even sex pheromones. The rather undistinguished cover design could represent some distant nebula but in view of the context probably features a glomerulus under attack by fluorescent flak. Twelve pages of advertisements in the back bring back an old Victorian custom of some

antiquarian interest, but also evidence of commercial support for what had been thought, erroneously in the West, to be a lost cause.

E. G. L. BYWATERS

Compendia Rheumatologica. Kennbilder der wichtigsten rheumatischen Erkrankungen. By G. L. Bach and F. Schilling. Pp. 115. No price. Eular: Basle. 1977.

Part I of the *Compendia*, a slim volume of just over 100 pages, gives a pictorial representation of the most important inflammatory rheumatic diseases. It covers rheumatoid arthritis, Still's disease, SLE, scleroderma, gouty arthritis, Reiter's syndrome, destructive arthritis of the fingers, and ankylosing spondylitis. Photographs, in colour and black-and-white, are of superb quality, and the same can be said of the x-ray films and histological slides. The educational value of the contents may be exemplified by the colour photographs, front and back, of the leg of a rheumatoid patient with a ruptured popliteal cyst and an accompanying arthrogram of the knee in question. Such a volume should prove a useful aid to memory in rheumatic conditions where an overlap in naked eye appearances is not unknown.

DAVID PREISKEL

Clinical Rheumatology. Ed. John H. Talbott. Pp. 198. \$22.50. Elsevier: New York. 1978.

This book has been developed from lecture material presented at an annual postgraduate course at the University of Miami School of Medicine which precedes the initial recertification examination of the American Board of Internal Medicine. It is designed for the revising internist rather than the rheumatologist, and it does not claim to be comprehensive. There are 11 contributing authors and 32 chapters, which vary in length from one-half to 18 pages of widely spaced typescript. Thus low backache and total joint replacement are covered in 3 pages each, and the chapters on polymyalgia rheumatica and chondrocalcinosis are even shorter. About a quarter of the chapter on rheumatoid arthritis is devoted to the American Rheumatism Association criteria, and penicillamine is mentioned in a brief paragraph. A few selected references are given. In contrast, there are thorough reviews of the complement system and inflammation and mediators of the inflammatory process, with extensive references. It would make painless reading for the nonrheumatologist, but at \$22.50 I would not recommend it for the hospital library. The lack of balance makes it unsuitable for undergraduates.

I. D. L. BREWIS