Amoxycillin 250 mg 8 hourly (7 subjects); flucloxacin-
lin 250 mg 6 hourly (6 subjects); fucidic acid 250 mg 6
hourly (6 subjects); cephadine 500 mg 6 hourly
(6 subjects). Samples of SF and blood were with-
drawn at 0, 30, 45, 60, 90 minutes and 2, 3, 4, 6, 8,
12, 24, 36 hours. Antibiotic concentrations were
measured by quantitative bioassay. With these doses
cephadine in SF did not consistently reach the
minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) for
Staphylococcus aureus. The other 3 antibiotics all
reached the MIC, but concentrations in SF peaked
later and lower than in serum. Considerable vari-
ation in serum and SF concentrations was observed
independently of the severity of inflammation.

Book reviews

Drug Treatment of the Rheumatic Diseases. By F. Dudley

This book is aimed primarily at the general practi-
tioner to help him find his way through the many and various
drugs that are available now for the treatment of arth-
rhitis in its various forms. It does, of course, have the
limitations of such a book in that treatment is restricted
to chemotherapy whereas the treatment of arthritis
involves very much more than just drugs. The first
section of the book comprises a review of clinical pharma-
cology of the various types of drugs, starting with
general principles and then going on to review the non-
steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, followed by those that
actively affect the rheumatoid disease process. There are
chapters on the use and abuse of corticosteroids and the
place of analgesic drugs and intra-articular and soft-
tissue injections.

This general review of the drugs available is, I think,
helpful and gives plenty of useful information on side
effects and clinical use. In particular there is information
on drug interactions, and this is a welcome point. Proper
names for the drugs are used throughout which may be a
little confusing to some general practitioners, who are
perhaps, more familiar with the proprietary names, and I
think it is a pity that both are not used. The book is
clearly aimed at the American as well as the United
Kingdom general practitioner, and of course the use of
drugs in the treatment of arthritis varies somewhat on the
2 sides of the Atlantic. This inevitably involves some
compromises.

I felt that the chapter on the use of drugs in rheumatoid
arthritis was a little disappointing, as I think more
could have been said about the role of penicillamine and
gold and the particular problems in their use in this
disease. By contrast, the chapter on gout was a little
overelaborate, and some of the recommendations for the
investigation of gout will, I think, be a little difficult to
follow in general practice. The chapters on ankylosing
spondylitis and polymyalgia rheumatica were useful.
On balance, I think this book is a very helpful one to have
on the shelf for ready reference for the general practi-
tioner faced with the arthritis which forms such a large
part of his practice. Particularly valuable are the lists of
references and recommended reading. The book is to
be recommended.

A. K. Thould

Concise Management of the Common Rheumatic Diseases.
Edited by D. N. Golding. Pp. 226. £8.50. John Wright:
Bristol. 1979.

Management cannot be separated from diagnosis and
investigation. The editor of this book, in recognising this
has included enough about each rheumatic condition so
that readers and particularly those unfamiliar with the
field, can clearly understand the detailed management
sections. Within a small compass he, in conjunction with
other members of his own team and 2 guest authors
from Israel, has succeeded admirably in his aim of
describing every aspect of the care of patients as it applies
to the commoner conditions, while the publishers have
displayed their part in ensuring that it is right up to date.

Although the book is written primarily for general
practitioners and junior staff new to the specialty, I
would recommend it strongly to nurses and paramedical
staff, and indeed some patients would gain much from
reading the relevant sections. Inevitably in a specialty
that still allows clinical judgment to flourish there will be
areas of disagreement, but the ability to find them
allows one to question one's own treatment, and that
must be a good thing. Indeed, on this basis senior mem-
bers of the specialty might gain the most from this book.

Alastair G. Mowat

The Radiology of Joint Disease. 2nd edn. By C. M.

This is the second edition of a book which was first
mainly in that a new section has been added which deals
in more detail than before with the differential diagnosis
of the arthritides. This section was necessary in order to
draw together the rest of the book, which is laid out on an
anatomical basis. Thus the first part of the book con-
cerns changes in the hand. After a brief description of
the normal, it deals with abnormalities of the soft tissues,
alignment of the bones, abnormalities of mineralisation,
and abnormalities of the cartilage space. The next and
largest part of the book deals with 'arthritis from head
to foot', dealing in turn with conditions that affect the
foot and ankle, knee, hip, elbow, shoulder joint, and spine.
This method of presentation means that it is quite difficult to get an overall picture of a disease process. For example, the changes found in hypertrophic pulmonary osteoarthropathy may be found separately in the sections on the foot, the hand, and knee, but nowhere is there an overall description of the conditions. Consequently one is left with the impression that the commonest changes are a periostitis of the bones of the hand and feet, and the more common periostitis of the forearms and ankles is not stressed. Similarly the radiological changes in acromegaly can, with the aid of the index, be found in 8 different places in the book, but nowhere can an overall description be found.

However, once one has become accustomed to the rather unusual format the book can be read with considerable interest. The numerous illustrations are of a high quality and are often reproduced at the natural size, so that the amount of written text is comparatively small. The radiographs are supplemented by clinical photographs and photographs of pathological sections and specimens. The literary style is clear and simple, even though we are invited to 'quantitate' the heel pad thickness rather than simply to measure it.

This book will be of interest to all who are faced with the differential diagnosis of joint disease. The layout of the book encourages a systematic approach to the examination of radiographs of individual joints. Even the most experienced rheumatologist or radiologist will find much of interest in this comprehensive and painstaking work.

J. W. LAWS


This book is the third in the series of Annual Research Reviews of rheumatoid arthritis and related conditions. Dr Panayi and his contributors have reviewed over 650 papers quoted in the Index Medicus over the space of one year from July 1977 to June 1978—a truly Herculean task. It is very difficult to review the reviewers unless one has read all the papers listed in this book oneself, but I found that this book achieved its object in stimulating me to delve more deeply into some of the papers quoted. The only criticism that I would have of the authors is that there could be more critical comment of many of the papers they have reviewed, and its dearth leads to a certain blandness in the text, which perhaps is inevitable in a book of this kind. However, there are occasional flashes of controversy, as on p. 143, when the reviewer comments that the use of a combination of steroids, cyclophosphamide, and azathioprine was highly effective in treatment of a chronic arthritis involving dogs, and therefore a justification for this combined chemotherapy in human disease.

As there are no illustrations the book is a trifle expensive at £14.00, but nevertheless it is good value for money and will certainly be a must for our departmental library.

R. D. STURROCK


This volume of the Clinics series, published at a time when the number of anti-rheumatic drugs is increasing at a bewildering rate, provides us with a much needed review of currently available and evaluated drugs. In the opening chapter Dr Huskisson, the guest editor, outlines his own useful classification of these drugs, and in a later chapter he emphasises the need for a carefully planned approach to treatment.

Several chapters are devoted to the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. These are written mainly by physicians from within the pharmaceutical industry, and the characteristics of these drugs including their pharmacology, toxicology, modes of action, and adverse reactions are considered in detail. The results of clinical trials are also discussed at some length. Here, however, particularly in a book of this nature, I would have preferred a more critical appraisal of the reported findings.

The so-called 'specific' drugs which are used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis are considered in the following chapters. There is an extremely comprehensive account of D-penicillamine and a rather shorter section on gold. The present-day approach to the use of these drugs, particularly penicillamine, is discussed in a very clear and constructive way. The chapter on levasimole, however, despite being very informative, is, I feel, somewhat overoptimistic about its place in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Is it really such a well-established drug? At this point in the book I would have welcomed an additional chapter on the immunosuppressant drugs, but, as Dr Huskisson points out, some omissions were inevitable.

I particularly enjoyed reading the sections on the treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus, gout, and Paget's disease. Recent thoughts about drug therapy in these conditions are expertly and concisely discussed. Dr Hughes pleads the case for a conservative approach to therapy in systemic lupus and I found the review of Paget's disease by Dr Russell extremely valuable. Despite my minor criticisms, Dr Huskisson and his team of authors must be congratulated on producing a balanced and comprehensive account of the current drug management of the rheumatic diseases. It should be read, now rather than later, by all those with an interest in the treatment of these disorders.

MICHAEL WEBLEY


Covering nearly all one needs to know for the clinical diagnosis and investigation of heart disease, this book must be among the most readable texts available today. The preface states it is for medical students and suggests that house staff and members of ancillary professions might find it useful too. This is unduly modest, as most clinicians, senior and junior, would find it of great help,