Amoxicillin 250 mg 8 hourly (7 subjects); fluvoxacinilin 250 mg 6 hourly (6 subjects); fucidic acid 250 mg 6 hourly (6 subjects); cefradine 500 mg 6 hourly (6 subjects). Samples of SF and blood were withdrawn at 0, 30, 45, 60, 90 minutes and 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24, 36 hours.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 cefradine 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 variation in serum and SF concentrations was observed independently of the severity of inflammation.

**Book reviews**


This book is aimed primarily at the general practitioner to help him find his way through the many and various drugs that are available now for the treatment of arthritis 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 pharmacology 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 practitioner 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


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 played 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 members of the specialty might gain the most from this book.

Alastair G. Mowat


This is the second edition of a book which was first published in 1973. It differs from the earlier edition 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 concerns 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 not surprised the book is a project of this magnitude. This method of presentation means that nowhere can an overall description be found. However, once one has become accustomed to the 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 not surprised the book is a project of this magnitude.

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 depth 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 antirheumatic 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 levamisole, 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 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,