

and the title describes the contents perfectly. Certain subjects are avoided, like hypertensive disease, as the authors state that this is often now related more to nephrology and endocrinology than to cardiology; therapy is also largely omitted. This approach seems reasonable, as both are covered elsewhere, and it is not the aim of the book to be comprehensive.

It is divided into 15 sections, each of which deals with important features of heart disease. For example, there are sections on symptoms, signs, electrocardiograms pulmonary heart disease, ischaemic heart disease, and so on, each of which can be studied on its own. This format has much to commend it as there are ample illustrative radiographs, ECGs, and pressure tracings throughout. The reader is assumed to know nothing, so that all the basics are covered, but the text soon progresses to the more advanced and up-to-date information, with plenty of references at the end of each section.

For the doctor not in its speciality this book would seem ideal. Cardiology plays such an important role in medical practice, and it is often difficult to keep abreast of changes in branches of medicine other than one's own. In the past 20 years modern cardiology has emerged as a scientific discipline, and with the techniques available like echocardiography and angiography it is mandatory for the physician at least to understand the principles, if not all the technical details; this is what Dr Davies and Dr Nelson set out to teach. There are one or two minor criticisms as to the quality of the reproduction of ECG tracings, but these are quibbles. The book is excellent and should be recommended particularly to doctors in a field such as rheumatic disease. It is a pity there are not more books as readable as this one in other branches of medicine.

E. N. COOMES

**Pediatric Rheumatology Case Studies.** By Aram S. Hanissian. Pp. 382. £12.50. Henry Kimpton: London. 1979.

This compilation of 50 cases has been used to illustrate the development of the diagnoses, treatment, complications, and prognoses of a variety of rheumatological presentations in childhood. The material is based on a multiple choice question format for which the answers and discussion are placed close to the relevant question and for which an adequate bibliography is given. The problems of this format are demonstrated. In particular, the author's wish to deal encyclopaedically with the differential diagnosis and with the investigations that are undertaken, has led to the inclusion of many rarities, though some idea of their relevant importance is given. This type of format is much easier to use where well-defined organic disease or syndromes are involved but unfortunately does not lend itself to the often ill-defined but very important problems encountered in practice.

This is not an introductory textbook. It is designed to be read after having acquired a working knowledge of the subjects being discussed when one can evaluate the

relative incidence and importance of the conditions.

For a person with a working knowledge of the subject it is a very valuable exercise to compare one's own reaction to the problems stated and the answers given, which the author has had the courage to commit to print. The title in many ways does not do justice to the value of the discussions or of the clear illustrations. The discussion contains considerable practical and homely advice, well presented in a manner not found in the more stereotyped classical textbook descriptions.

In brief, if one has had the opportunity to read and practise paediatric rheumatology, I am sure that much benefit can be obtained from reading this book, particularly since it can be tackled in short, case-by-case episodes. Though it is not a cheap book, the condensed style allows considerable information to be packed into the 380 pages.

P. J. L. HOLT

**Arthritis and Allied Conditions.** 9th edn. By Daniel McCarty. Pp. 1431. £38.50. Henry Kimpton: London. 1979.

The first 3 editions of this book were written by Dr Bernard Comroe between 1940 and 1944 when the study of rheumatology as a scientific medical discipline was still in its infancy. The work immediately achieved recognition as an authoritative comprehensive textbook and went from strength to strength, while the subsequent 5 editions were produced under the brilliant direction of Dr Joseph Lee Hollander during the years 1949 to 1972. The ninth edition has been undertaken by Dr Daniel McCarty, already closely associated with the book as contributor and associate editor.

To invite and collect (all by their deadlines 'plus or minus 2 standard deviations') chapters from no fewer than 87 distinguished North American contributors is an extraordinary achievement. The book is correspondingly large, well produced, abundantly illustrated and tabulated, and by today's standards very reasonably priced.

A section of introductory chapters is followed by a new section of 15 chapters on the scientific basis for the study of the rheumatic diseases. The timing of the book's publication fortunately allows critical modern reviews of such subjects as immune complex deposition, immunoglobulins, the structure and function of the major histocompatibility complex, and the role in disease of monocytes and macrophages. A further new section is devoted to clinical pharmacology of the antirheumatic drugs. The remaining 8 sections discuss the various rheumatic diseases on a systematic basis. All are of a high standard and immensely informative: praxis of the grandmasters.

To avoid overlap (and disagreement) between all these contributions must have been a major editorial task. Dr McCarty has largely succeeded, though the radiographs, for example, of osteoarthritis in the chapter on that subject are similar to those in a previous chapter on radiology of rheumatic diseases. Again, exercise treatment is discussed both in the chapter on the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and in the subsequent