

Book reviews

The Three Rs: Rheumatism, Rehabilitation, Research as Viewed from Bath. By George D. Kersley. Pp. 68. £2.10 including postage. Available from Friends of the Hospital, Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath. 1980.

For nearly 50 years George Kersley has viewed world rheumatology from Bath and has himself contributed greatly to its development. This booklet is something of an autobiography and an account of the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, but it is also an excellent review of the history of rheumatology. It discusses such topics as the relation of rheumatology to rehabilitation and the influence of spa treatment, and provides an invaluable summary of the 'contributors to the scene'—the various national and international organisations devoted to the advance of our study of the rheumatic diseases. Enlivened by many little anecdotes, it makes fascinating reading as well as constituting an important historical record.

J. T. SCOTT

Materials and Orthopaedic Surgery. By Dana C. Mears. Pp. 762. £55.30. Williams and Wilkins: Maryland, Baltimore. 1979.

This book really represents the second edition of *Metals and Engineering in Bone and Joint Surgery* previously published by Bechtol, Ferguson, and Laing in 1959. In general it is well written and provides critical accounts of many of the problems facing orthopaedic surgeons today.

The question must be asked, however, whether a book such as this can comprehensively cover the problems of biomechanics and materials in orthopaedic surgery together with the operative problems of their insertion in a total of 800 pages. This is a problem difficult to accomplish in any author's hands, and the reviewer feels that it has not been achieved in this book.

The chapters on the structure and properties of materials together with their mechanical behaviour are an impressive up-to-date review of this problem and are extremely helpful to the young resident and registrar in training. The response of muscular skeletal tissue to injury and the modification of this injury response following the implantation of materials leave the reader with a comprehensive review of the problems which confront the orthopaedic surgeon about to stabilise a fracture or replace a diseased joint.

From this point onwards, however, the use of the book becomes more difficult to assess. The chapters on internal fixation and the clinical methods of fracture management are largely those of the 'association of osteosynthesis' school and are better covered in the original articles. Spinal surgery is covered in 25 pages. Subsequent chapters deal with the problem of joint reconstruction. The biomechanics of the individual joints are considered in great detail together with the technical problems of insertion

of these joints, particularly the knee. With the changes that are occurring in the design of total knee replacement this must be considered more as a historical review, and further editions of this book will immediately be required if these chapters are to be kept up to date.

In general, therefore, this is a good book for the orthopaedic trainee, comprehensively discussing the problems of implants and their tissue responses. It is felt that the reader would obtain better instruction on the operative techniques from the books and articles from which these chapters take reference.

A. CATTERALL

Clinics in Rheumatic Diseases. Vol. 5. Progressive Systemic Sclerosis. (Ed.) G. P. Rodnan. Pp. 306. £10.00. W. B. Saunders: Eastbourne. 1979.

This is certainly not the only monograph devoted to systemic sclerosis that has been published in recent years, but it is the most comprehensive. Its 2 forerunners, by A. J. Barnett (1974) and M. Giordano (1977), were both single-author works reflecting the wide experience of the authors concerned, but at the same time lacking the sparkle and variety that can only come from a multidisciplinary approach. Professor Rodnan has assembled his team of no fewer than 28 collaborators from 6 countries to produce the most authoritative tome on this disease to date. Separate chapters are accorded in turn to each of the organs and tissues commonly involved as well as the epidemiology, metabolism of connective tissue, and chromosomal abnormalities in this condition. The section on management, which ranges over 40 pages, deals with general management as well as providing a detailed review of drugs in common use, including D-penicillamine and the more controversial colchicine. As an added bonus the reader is rewarded with a report of the preliminary results of the scleroderma criteria co-operative study of the American Rheumatism Association, which is an attempt to draw up reliable criteria for the diagnosis of 'early scleroderma'.

In addition to systemic sclerosis localised scleroderma (morphoea) is well covered, as is the host of variegated conditions loosely classified as 'pseudoscleroderma'. The list of causes of this has increased considerably in recent years, and includes scleroedema, scleromyxoedema, eosinophilic fasciitis, progeria, chronic graft-vs.-host disease, and porphyria as well as the effects of bleomycin and polyvinyl chloride. Juvenile systemic sclerosis is not dealt with as a separate entity. However, readers of the *Clinics in Rheumatic Diseases* will know that this was covered in a recent number devoted to paediatric rheumatology.

In summary, this number of the *Clinics* is an important book of medical reference. No medical library and no practising rheumatologist should be without it.

RODNEY GRAHAME