

a result suggesting that these cells are sensitised with autoantibodies of IgE class. The implication is that Type I reactions may be more important than previously recognised, but the information is neither critically presented nor well discussed. Thus, although disappointing, and largely containing irrelevant information for the rheumatologist, the book has been well edited and is worthy of attention by students of cellular biology and clinicians in the mainstream of the clinical specialties that have been covered more extensively.

R. N. MAINI

Essential Rheumatology for Nurses and Therapists. Ed. G. S. Panayi. Pp. 197. £4.95. Bailliere Tindall: London. 1980.

This compact soft-covered book, written by a team working at Guy's and New Cross Hospitals, describes the principal rheumatic diseases and their management. It gives a concise and lucid account of the pathology and treatment of the diseases which, with the section on drugs, their uses and side effects, can be used for referral. Surgical procedures and the part they play are realistically and clearly described.

There are 3 excellent chapters written by a nurse, physiotherapist, and occupational therapist respectively. They describe the role of each profession, their interaction, and the importance of overall care. There are useful appendices on reference books, aids, benefits, and services. The emphasis throughout is on the multi-disciplinary team approach. The highly consistent format of this easy-to-read book will make it a valuable addition to the library of students and qualified nurses and therapists.

E. M. WIGHAM

Microscopie Electronique à Balayage et Pathologie Articulare: Etude de la Membrane Synoviale Humaine. By Gilbert Faure, Patrick Netter, Alain Gaucher. Pp. 126. No price given. Merck Sharp and Dohme: Paris. 1979.

This is a lavishly illustrated guide to the surface structure of normal and pathological human synovial tissue, with limited descriptions of the articular cartilage and tendons, as observed by the scanning electron microscope (SEM). The introductory section on normal synovium, which contains a brief account of preparative techniques, is more than adequately represented by photomicrographs. This is followed by a necessarily selective account of pathological conditions of the synovial tissue determined by surface change alone.

The most extensive sections on abnormal tissue are concerned with inflammatory and degenerative joint disease and the changes caused by metabolic abnormalities. The former describes and illustrates the large deposits of fibrinoid, the abundant surface villi, and the changes resulting from the local administration of radioisotopes (synoviorrhèse) such as yttrium-90, associated with

rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis. Numerous remarkable photographs of crystals of sodium urate, calcium salts, and pyrophosphate dominate the chapter on metabolic diseases. These crystals were taken from the synovium, articular cartilage, and the knee menisci of patients suffering from gout or pseudogout. There are relatively few illustrations of the morphological phenomena associated with these deposits. The vivid cellular changes at the surface of the synovial tissue in degenerative disease are well represented. By contrast, the micrographs of disrupted articular cartilage surfaces are less rewarding. Other chapters deal with infective arthritis, with the calcification of tendons, and with 'tumour' pathology, the latter restricted exclusively to pigmented villonodular synovitis.

This book contains many photomicrographs of high quality, well reproduced, but it would benefit from more detailed captions and the use of indicators on the micrographs. There is a reasonably up-to-date bibliography of 136 references. Although this atlas represents only one aspect of morphological pathology—that is, surface change—it is pleasant to browse through and a useful guide to the application of scanning electron microscopy in synovial pathology.

PATRICIA O'CONNOR

Documenta Geigy. Rheumatoid Arthritis: Organ Manifestations and Complications. By Walter Siegmeth and Rudolf Eberl. Pp. 71. No price given. Ciba-Geigy: Basle. 1977.

This little book is devoted to the nonarticular complications of rheumatoid arthritis. It is written largely from a clinical viewpoint. However, in the introduction, Dr Siegmeth discusses some theories on the pathogenesis of extra-articular features, but surprisingly there is no discussion of rheumatoid factor. Short chapters are devoted to the organs involved, and there are separate chapters on features such as amyloid and Sjogren's syndrome.

In general the subject is covered concisely and clearly. Inevitably in a brief synopsis there are omissions. For instance, no mention is made of thrombocythaemia in the chapter on the blood, while in the chapter on neurological manifestations cervical cord involvement is discussed in one line. The strange chapter on the gastrointestinal tract is devoted almost entirely to a trial of a substance which the author claims is 'gastroprotective'.

The least satisfactory parts of this book are the sections on therapy. These take the form of inserts of a few lines in each chapter. Such a cursory treatment results in surprising statements being made with no supporting explanation—for example, short courses of heparin are recommended every 3 weeks for vasculitis. The paragraphs on therapy should have either been greatly expanded or omitted.

In spite of these criticisms this is a readable book which is well illustrated and can be recommended as a useful introduction to the subject.

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