excellent chapter on a rapidly advancing front, the immunology of joints, by Michael Elves.

The rare apparent omissions (on a quick reading and index consultation) may well be remedied in the second volume, for example, the angiogenesis inhibition factor of cartilage (first described in 1975) and amyloidosis in the aging joint capsule (described in 1976), both pertinent to this field.

For clinicians (rheumatologists and orthopaedic surgeons) the book offers a compendium of knowledge in the basic sciences of their arts, well presented for the most part, well referenced and well indexed, and with adequate illustrations. The editor, Leon Sokoloff from the National Institutes of Health and, more recently, the State University of New York at Stony Brook—perhaps the premier physiopathologist in this field—and his colleagues are to be congratulated on this difficult but most worthwhile achievement.

E. G. L. BYWATERS


To produce a comprehensive monograph of disorders of the cervical spine is a formidable undertaking. This book comprises 10 chapters dealing with the applied anatomy, radiology, congenital malformations and deformities, fractures and dislocations, soft tissue injuries, osteomyelitis, the surgical management of skeletal tumours, other operations, cervical spondylosis, and the cervical spine involvement in rheumatic diseases.

In his preface Mr Jeffreys points out that he has been selective in his material and that specialists in other fields will be aware of deficiencies but that they may feel compensated by appreciating some of the orthopaedic problems of managing cervical injury and disease, and in this he has been successful. Rheumatologists may take issue with some of the statements in the latter 2 chapters but will undoubtedly find others, notably a contribution by Mr T. McSweeney on cervical injuries and their management, rewarding reading.

The book is profusely illustrated, but improvement in the quality of reproduction of some of the radiographs and correction of numerous proof-reading errors in the captions and text would enhance the attraction of any subsequent editions. The bibliography is selective but could with advantage be expanded, particularly as regards the pathological changes in rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

Mr Jeffreys states that he would like to think that orthopaedic residents in training would find the book most useful. I am sure that they will.

JAMES SHARP


This slim volume written by an experienced German orthopaedic surgeon provides a good account of the present state of knowledge of arthroscopy of the knee joint. It is written as a handbook intended for either surgeon or physician who wishes to take up arthroscopy as a routine procedure. The style is clear and concise, and it details a number of the typical difficulties encountered by the inexperienced. The book’s main attraction is the excellent quality of the many illustrations, which include a large number of colour plates of arthroscopic appearances, each with an accompanying anatomical diagram.

While the book is obviously intended primarily for orthopaedic surgeons, it is sufficiently broad in its context to make it a ‘must’ for any rheumatology unit where arthroscopic teaching and practice are performed.

BRIAN BOURKE


This elegant work represents a pictorial survey of bone disease and is divided into: introduction; presentation and history; examination of the patient; metabolic and endocrine bone disease; tumours of bone; bone involvement in systemic disease; and inflammatory disease of bone.

The material, a most palatable visual feast, comprises coloured photographs of clinical and pathological material, radiographs, bone scans, and diagrams. The last deserve particular mention. Many of these are based on full-skeleton outlines summarising the distribution of lesions in many of the bone diseases described. The combination of a clear black outline and the use of red to delineate the pathological areas is particularly effective. Throughout the book there is a harmonious balance between clinical relevance and graphic representation, and the contents fully justify the claim of its author that common disease processes are well represented and that the book is intended to illustrate mechanisms at the cellular level. The pictures have been chosen with considerable clinical feeling and have been presented with technical expertise and imagination.

The text is crisp and positive, and totally befits its role as a series of legends as opposed to running prose. The reference list is short but eclectic and gives full acknowledgment to the main world authorities in the field of bone disease.

The few minor criticisms certainly do not detract in any way from the enjoyment of this delightful book. The artistic skill resulting in Fig. 95, illustrating the fine structure of bone, is diminished by undue reduction; considering the central theme of the book this might have been allocated at least a half-page spread. Fig. 308, ‘rheumatoid arthritis—invasion of bone by pannus’, shows features more reminiscent of psoriatic arthritis, with prominent osteolytic ‘whittling’. Fig. 312, showing a rheumatoid bursa on the elbow, is upside down (however, it may have been the intention to allow pictorial impact to override conventional orientation).

The book is highly recommended, not only to those involved directly with bone disease but also to those working in allied fields such as rheumatology and orthopaedics. Moreover, at the price listed even readers governed by the most conservative budget will be assured of excellent value, not only because this is an atlas in the truest sense, but also because of bonuses such as the fact