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—involution 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
that over two-thirds of the 357 illustrations are in colour and are reproduced to a high standard.

J. M. H. MOLL


This book is the first in a series of continuing medical education texts designed for the internist by the UCLA Department of Medicine and the publishers. Dr Bluestone and his contributing authors have covered aspects such as pathogenesis, pathophysiology, diagnosis, management, and prognosis of patients with primary rheumatic disorders. The 40 chapters are organised into 7 parts: introduction; nonarticular rheumatism; degenerative joint diseases; inflammatory rheumatic diseases; acute monarticular arthritis; systemic lupus erythematosus; and other collagen vascular diseases.

The overall impression is of a work covering most aspects of rheumatology in more than sufficient depth for the intended purpose. The text is clearly written, up to date, and accurate. The reviewer’s main quibble lies with the presentation of the book. The line illustrations, in particular, have suffered through undue reduction, and this has resulted in much detail being lost, especially in the otherwise excellent summary diagrams showing overall patterns of rheumatic involvement of specific disease entities. The fact that more space could have been devoted to these figures is evidenced by the 9 completely blank pages scattered throughout the book. A further criticism regarding presentation concerns the running titles which feature prominently at the foot of each page, where they create visual conflict with the text and figure legends and constantly deceive the reader into thinking they are sectional headings for material over the page.

Although the subject matter is covered in a reasonably balanced way there are some bare areas. There is virtually no comment on the importance of communication in rheumatology, and the chapter which might have included this, ‘Psychological considerations in the management of arthritic patients’, deals largely with matters more within the domain of the clinical psychologist. This chapter is further devalued by the use of terms such as ‘phenomenologic approach’, ‘basic adjustment paradigm’, and ‘self-actualization’—terms which will be largely meaningless to the average rheumatologist. Another area which could have been developed more is a section on soft-tissue problems, which are allowed only 16 pages, compared with the 163 pages allocated to more obscure, though currently fashionable, disorders such as disseminated lupus erythematosus and other connective tissue disorders.

The book is accompanied by a multiple choice questionnaire which, if completed, earns the participant 18 credit hours in category 1 of the Physicians’ Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. The multiple choice test contains some ambiguity and dogma which could probably be reduced by further piloting.

The book is thought to represent a useful addition to the rheumatological literature, particularly for the trainee, and despite the criticisms about the quality of presentation, the quantity, variety and documentation of material (over 200 illustrations, many tables and case reports, and useful lists of references and suggestions for further reading) represent good value for the price quoted.

J. M. H. MOLL


This monograph describes plain and contrast radiography of the lumbosacral spine. The place of the various contrast techniques and the media used are illustrated together with their practical aspects and complications. Line diagrams of great clarity are used to illustrate normal and pathological appearances and often aligned with good quality radiographs to aid interpretation.

Discography is given very brief mention, and although its diagnostic value may have limited some would place higher value on the relevance of any accompanying pain that is produced. The place of lumbar epidural venography (carnalography, peridurography), which is capable of outlining the lateral recesses of the spinal canal and the sacral epidural space, is not mentioned except as an error in the radiculographic injection technique. The book has an annotated computer assisted tomography.

Access to this well illustrated volume with over 500 pages is much to be desired by anyone working in this field, but its niche is more likely to be in the library of a department of radiology than one of rheumatology.

JOHN MATHEWS


This monograph is a translation from the French of a detailed study of the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the upper cervical spine and the way it is influenced by chronic inflammatory diseases like rheumatoid arthritis. Clinical examination and treatment are also covered.

Perhaps the main problem with this text is its lack of fluency and unorthodox terminology, but this should not obscure the fact that it is a mine of information with profuse illustrations of arthrography, anatomy, and radiological abnormalities. The blending of clinical rheumatology with x-ray diagnosis sometimes seems clumsy, and it is possible to take issue with occasional points in the sections on history and clinical examination. Some small errors were spotted in the references (one being to a paper written by this reviewer) and the aim to provide complete coverage leads to lack of balance in emphasis. For example, generalised osteoporosis and osteomalacia scarcely justify the detail given in this context.

Despite these comments I think the systematic and detailed coverage of the subject with over 400 references make access to this book desirable for anyone working or writing in this area, and one can but admire the achievement in amassing so much useful information.

JOHN MATHEWS