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

J. M. H. MOLL

Rheumatology. Ed. Rodney Bluestone. Pp. 544. \$30.00. Houghton Mifflin: Boston, Massachusetts. 1980.

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

Radiculosaccography with Water-soluble Contrast Media. By P. Capesius and E. Babin. Pp. 166. DM 98. Springer-Verlag: Berlin. 1978.

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 be limited some would place higher value on the relevance of any accompanying pain that is produced. The place of lumbar epidural venography is described correctly in helping to outline small lateral disc herniations at the L5-S1 level, but epidurography (canalography, 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 antedated computer assisted tomography.

Access to this well illustrated volume with over 500 references 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

The Craniovertebral Region in Chronic Inflammatory Rheumatic Diseases. By Y. Dirheimer. Pp. 173. DM 98. Springer-Verlag: Berlin. 1977.

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 the 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