The book is written in the form of separate articles by different authors but linked up very effectively with cross-references and a comprehensive index, so that it does not appear to be discontinuous. It is therefore easy to read, and the enthusiasm of the authors for their subjects comes across in each chapter, making the approach to a large field varied and interesting. It is also sufficiently concise for revision purposes, with adequate references for more detailed study if required.

The illustrations are generally good, but pictures of macroscopic pathology are lacking in some chapters. I also thought that the separation of the morbid anatomy from the clinical picture was an artificial and unnecessary division and would probably be more useful if integrated into the relevant chapters.

Altogether, this is a very readable and useful book, which is realistically priced for the undergraduate student.

JEREMY F. C. SCHNETLER

A Colour Atlas of Rheumatology. By A. C. Boyle. Pp. 176. £12.00. Wolfe Medical Publications: London. 1980.

Dr Boyle has produced in this book a distillate of clinical experience over many years with numerous superb photographs of arthritis and its complications. The book is aimed at general practitioners and medical students, but it will also serve as an excellent aide-mémoire for SHO's and registrars. It has no pretensions to being absolutely comprehensive or to discussing in great detail the features of arthritis in all its forms, nor does it deal with therapy at all. The pictures maintain a high quality with few exceptions throughout the book, though there is the usual problem of producing first-class copies of radiographs. These are not of the same quality as the colour photographs.

This is a fascinating and useful book—helpful for introducing medical students to the appearance of arthritis and an excellent reminder for doctors.

A. K. THOULD

Diagnostic and Operative Arthroscopy of the Knee Joint. By Glinz Werner. Pp. 129. DM 98.00. Hans Huber: Berne, Switzerland. 1980.

This well illustrated monograph is based on the author's analysis of the first 800 arthroscopies carried out in his clinic. It describes the modern thinking and the technique of arthroscopy, including useful information about the equipment, its maintenance, and the most commonly used approaches, together with helpful advice on the best way to obtain the most information out of the examination. There is a brief section on indications, contraindications and complications. The majority of common arthroscopic findings are well illustrated in the main section of the book, and there is a brief summary of the findings in 800 cases illustrating a very low clinical diagnostic accuracy. The section on arthroscopic surgery

is fairly basic, as one would expect in the first 800 cases. At the end of the book there is a useful bibliography and index.

This book sets out the basic essentials of arthroscopy clearly and concisely. It makes interesting reading for those involved in this technique and essential reading for those thinking of setting up an arthroscopic service.

A. J. HALL

Inflammation: Mechanisms and Treatment. Eds. D. A. Willoughby and J. P. Giroud. Pp. 873. £39.95. MTP Press: Lancaster. 1981.

This is a book with something for everyone concerned with inflammation, but nothing much for anyone. It is tantalising in that the reader is told, in passing, of what sounds like important work, only to find that the work is not listed in the references to the article. An example of this occurs in the relaxed review on crystal deposition disease by Faure, Gaucher, Netter, Pourel, and Duheille. They say, 'Ultrastructural confirmation by Ali . . . is important because of the origin of the mineral.' But they do not list a reference to Ali's work. It is tantalising also because there appears to be no relation between the length of the article and the importance of the work suggested by the title of the article. Thus 'Future trends in mechanisms of cartilage destruction,' by Dingle, features only as a brief abstract of 11 lines; it is followed by a page and a half (small type) of discussion, which shows how much the reader is missing by not having a record of the given paper.

This volume contains 125 contributions, each of which may be a short abstract or a full paper; the discussion that followed these communications is also included. The level of the papers is extremely variable. Some, like the review by Higgs and Eakins dealing with the cyclo-oxygenase and lipoxygenase pathways, will be of general interest to rheumatologists; others are of such mediocrity that one wonders if they would have been accepted for publication in a reputable journal. The subjects range over all aspects of inflammation, even to experimental protoporphyria in hairless mice, yet none is dealt with in sufficient detail to allow a reviewer to recommend the book for at least this or that review. Consequently the book can be summarised as follows: if you want to know what research is being done in 'inflammation', and which laboratories are concerned in such research, the contents list of this book is a convenient, if expensive, way of finding out. On the other hand if you want to learn about current research in inflammation, with details of experimental procedures and critical discussion of the problems, you will be best advised to seek elsewhere.

J. CHAYEN

Clinical Arthrography. By R-D. Arndt, J. W. Honns, R. H. Gold. Pp. 212. US\$36.00. Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore, Maryland. 1981.

The preface comments that arthrography is a regular part of the daily practice of most radiologists, a statement

which underlines the differences between radiological practice in this country and the USA.

There are chapters on the knee, shoulder, hip, elbow, ankle, wrist, and hand by 3 diagnostic radiologists, and there is a chapter on the temporomandibular joints written by a dentist specialising in oral radiology. Each chapter is preceded by a clearly written and well illustrated account of the radiological anatomy of the joint. The technique of double and single contrast arthrography is described and supplemented by diagrams and x-rays where necessary. Although the emphasis is on orthopaedic disorders, there are illustrations of the common inflammatory and degenerative diseases as they affect each joint. Congenital disorders and postoperative appearances are also covered. There is a list of recent references at the end of each chapter.

It was reassuring to read that no infective complications followed 4000 knee arthrograms, though one patient developed a sterile effusion which did not recur after aspiration. Arthrography of the temporomandibular joint is clearly for enthusiasts, as it requires separate catheterisation of the upper and lower joint compartments. The value of the investigation in managing patients with clicking or painful joints is not made clear, but the pictures are intriguing and go some way to explaining the functional anatomy of this difficult joint. The distinction between the subdeltoid and subacromial bursa, which are clearly labelled in Figs 2.1 and 2.19, is ignored in Fig. 2.9, where the subdeltoid bursa is described in the legend as the subacromial bursa. The quality of a few radiographic illustrations is disappointing, but most are excellent. However, these are minor criticisms, and the authors should be congratulated on having covered a wide field clearly and concisely.

The book is reasonably priced by modern standards and can be recommended as a hand book for rheumatologists, orthopaedic surgeons, and radiologists who wish to embark on arthrography and as a handy reference book for more experienced arthrographers.

JAMES MCIVOR

Studies in Joint Disease. Vol. 1. By A. Maroudas and E. J. Holborow. Pp. 290. £25.00. Pitman Medical: London. 1980.

This book is the first of an annual series of up-to-date reviews of progress in research relating to joint diseases. It is divided into 2 sections. The first deals with the chemistry and function of articular cartilage, with a chapter on the biochemical aspects of pyrophosphate arthropathy. The second section covers a wide variety of subjects related to the immunopathological mechanisms in chronic joint disease, with chapters on collagen, immune complexes and their interaction with collagenous tissues, autoimmunity and tolerance to immunoglobulins, and a final chapter on autoimmunity in adjuvant arthritis. The foreword makes the point that reviews generally require a higher standard of literary ability than factual reports of original work, but I did not find this to be the case. Inevitably in a series of reviews

which cover some very highly technical areas there is a certain amount of unevenness in the text. I found the reviews on the chemistry of human articular cartilage and of the biochemical and physicochemical aspects of calcium pyrophosphate crystals to be excellent and well worth reading for those rheumatologists who wish to be updated in these particular areas. The review on interactions and disease manifestations in immune complexes in articular collagenous tissues was very comprehensive, but I was a trifle irritated by the many abbreviations used which meant one having to refer back to the beginning of the chapter to remind oneself what ACT and HAC stood for. The final chapter on autoimmunity in adjuvant arthritis was a very sobering one to read. It was rather depressing to be presented with the many possible mechanisms which might be implicated in the genesis of adjuvant disease and to become aware that such a well established animal model of arthritis which has been intensively studied for the past 27 years still evades adequate explanation.

In general terms the book is not easy to read but it is a mine of information and a very useful reference book which will be of great value to clinicians and basic research workers who wish to keep abreast of the rapidly expanding literature related to the biology of connective tissue. For a book of only 290 pages £25.00 is somewhat expensive, but this new series promises to be a valuable addition to any departmental library and the editors, Dr Maroudas and Professor Holborow, are to be congratulated on their efforts in promoting multidisciplinary research through this new series, a goal which they have certainly realised in the first volume.

R. D. STURROCK

Scientific Foundations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology. Eds. R. Owen, J. W. Goodfellow, P. Bullough, Pp. 531. £42.00. William Heinemann: London. 1980.

There is a change in orthopaedics in which the empiricism of treatment of previous years is being replaced by a more scientific attitude. This change requires a much more detailed knowledge of the basic physiology, pathology, and biomechanics of the locomotor system.

This book comprehensively reviews all aspects of the scientific basis in orthopaedics. There are 6 sections. The first 3 deal with the structure, biochemistry, and development of the locomotor system. Sections 4 and 5 consider the effects of injury and degenerative breakdown on these structures together with their investigation. The final section considers the scientific basis of treatments currently available.

This is an excellent book which provides both an authoritative description of the development and function of all tissues of the locomotor system and also an excellent source of reference. It is ideal for trainees in orthopaedics, rheumatology, and rehabilitation. Its multiauthor production gives it authority, and I am sure it will find its way into many libraries and departments, both big and small.

A. CATTERALL