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 arthograms, 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


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


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