The Joints and Synovial Fluid. Vol. 2. Ed. Leon Sokoloff. Pp. 561. \$55.00. Academic Press: New York. 1980.

The explosive production in the number of books during the last 2 years on the physiology and morphology of normal and diseased joints indicates the lack of up-to-date material on the subject and the great advances in the scientific investigation of articular disorders in the last 20 years. British chauvinism will be satisfied by 7 UK authors of the 9 chapters—and 1 of the other 2 was the editor himself. Inevitably there is a good deal of overlap with the definitive work on articular cartilage edited by M. A. R. Freeman (in authorship, diagrams, and text). However, this was necessary if the 2 volumes edited by Dr Sokoloff were to present a comprehensive treatise on the biology of moveable joints and the spine. The opening chapter on 'In vitro culture of joints and articular tissues' is an essay in painful scholarship in which 181 references are discussed in 16 pages. Other chapters, where more space is allowed, deal with the biochemistry of the ground substance, the physiology of the synovium, kinetics, physical chemistry, and mechanical properties of articular cartilage and the intervertebral discs (the age changes of which are also discussed), and general pathology of peripheral joints and the axial skeleton.

Rheumatologists, orthopaedic surgeons, bioengineers with an interest in human joints, and many laboratory workers will wish to purchase this volume with its companion. I think, however, the suggestion on the dust cover that psychiatrists would leap to grasp this fly cast over their troubled waters is wishful thinking.

V. WRIGHT

Arthritis Teaching Slide Collection for Teachers of Allied Health Professionals. Pp. 213. AHP Slide Collection \$125.00. Instructional Guide alone \$20.00. Available from Arthritis Foundation, 3400 Peachtree Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30326, USA. Order must be prepaid.

Teaching slides are a regular feature of medical education in this country and the USA, and there is no doubt that a student or postgraduate, going over slides and listening to the soundtracks, can play them over as much (or as little) as he likes, skim through them or play them repeatedly depending on their content and his own requirements. In the field of arthritis, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council in Great Britain and the Arthritis Foundation in the USA have already quite a selection available. In many medical schools in this country rheumatic diseases are still, regrettably, indifferently represented in the teaching programmes, and these slides will help not only undergraduate but also postgraduate instruction. The subject is a big one, as witness the size of the last large medical textbook on the subject in the USA edited by Kelley *et al.*

The American arthritis teaching collection was prepared by a Task Force of the Arthritis Health Professions Section of the Arthritis Foundation with a grant support from the Health Service Section of Merck Sharpe and Dohme. The collection consists of 198 35 mm colour slides and is accompanied by a 216-page instructional

guide giving a description of each slide. Emphasis is on comprehensive management by a multidisciplinary health team and very wisely includes patient self-care. Slides 1–9 are on structure and function of the normal diarthrodial joint, 10–18 on classification and general remarks, 19–25 on inflammation, 26–75 on the different disease processes, rheumatoid arthritis, Sjögren's syndrome, 'degenerative joint disease,' and so on. Slides 76–101 are on assessment and 102–198, much the biggest section, on management. These 198 slides carry a great deal of information, for a good illustration can get a message across more clearly than hundreds of words, and the balance in this series is excellent.

There are now similar teaching slide collections in this country made by different clinicians for the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council with tape-recorded comments. The series has been produced by the Graves Medical Audio-visual Library Services and is available from Holly House, 220 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9BJ. Over a dozen are ready and several more are in preparation; the general editor is Dr E. C. Huskisson. The late Dr P. J. R. Nichols has done one on 'Aids and appliances for rheumatoid arthritis,' Dr P. A. Dieppe and Dr E. C. Huskisson on 'Osteoarthritis,' Dr Barbara Ansell on 'Arthritis in childhood,' Professor Verna Wright on 'Psoriatic arthropathy,' Dr C. G. Barnes on 'History taking,' Dr Rodney Grahame on 'Back pain,' and Dr J. M. H. Moll on 'Ankylosing spondylitis.' Dr A. G. S. Hill has two excellent talks on extra-articular manifestations and complications of rheumatoid arthritis and Professor H. L. F. Currey one on investigation of an arthritic patient. Dr Huskisson covers penicillamine in one talk and drugs used in the rheumatic diseases in another with more to follow. The general quality is excellent, and this tape-slide series should prove popular with under- and postgraduates wishing to extend and update their knowledge of the rheumatic disorders.

F. DUDLEY HART

Arthrography of the Knee Joint. By C. J. P. Thijm. Pp. 155. DM 98.00. Springer-Verlag: Berlin. 1979.

Here is the reference book for double-contrast arthrography of the knee. Cornelis Thijm has enthusiastically produced a comprehensive and exceptionally well illustrated work which deals in depth with the technique of the procedure, its values, interpretation and pitfalls. He has collaborated with the well known expert in arthroscopy, Dr Eikelaar, both from the State University Hospital in Groningen, to produce a comparison of the values of arthrography and arthroscopy of the knee for accurate diagnosis of many different conditions. In the book he pays particular attention to injuries of the medial meniscus, and it is this section that proves the most valuable. He illustrates how double-contrast arthrography is a superior method of examination for the difficult problem of minor meniscal tears, particularly in the posterior third of the menisci, and proves the point with many top quality radiographs and anatomical drawings. Other chapters on lesions of the cruciate