

I can thoroughly recommend this book for the more intelligent sufferer from back pain. Reading it will undoubtedly also help those of us who deal with the problem the better to communicate with our patients.

A. C. BOYLE

Arthroscopic Surgery of the Knee. By David Dandy. Pp. 122. £28.00. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1981.

In the past 10 years diagnostic arthroscopy has become widely accepted and an essential investigation, particularly in the injured knee. The development of arthroscopic surgical techniques has proved to be difficult and sometimes exasperating, but the rewards in terms of rapid rehabilitation have been most gratifying.

This book is the most comprehensive text so far on the subject of arthroscopic surgery. It is clearly written in an easy-to-read style and extremely well illustrated. After a brief history of arthroscopy and arthroscopic surgery there is an excellent chapter on diagnostic arthroscopy, which includes practical advice on instruments and operative technique with good illustrations of some of the more common arthroscopic findings. Each illustration is accompanied by a line drawing to clarify the 'geography' of the photograph and a small diagram to show the position of the arthroscope at the time the photograph was taken. All the arthroscopic photographs in the book are accompanied by these line drawings and diagrams. They give the reader a clear understanding of the orientation which is so important in arthroscopy and set a new standard for clarity in text of this type.

The 4 chapters on arthroscopic surgery deal with the basic techniques, operations on the synovial membrane and capsule, operations on loose bodies, foreign bodies, joint surfaces, and ligaments. The major achievement of the book is the chapter on meniscal lesions, which describes clearly and illustrates dramatically how all meniscal tears can be dealt with by arthroscopic techniques. A simple system for learning arthroscopic surgery is described. A chapter on results and clinical experience is brief and might be better entitled 'The pros and cons of arthroscopic surgery.' There is an adequate index at the end of the Book.

This is an important book and represents the first comprehensive text on arthroscopic surgery. Reading it will not permit the skilled arthroscopist to become an arthroscopic surgeon overnight, but it should provide the inspiration to achieve that end.

A. J. HALL

Immunological Investigation of Connective Tissue Disease. By L. E. Glynn and C. A. Reading. Pp. 98. £15.00. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1981.

This is the fourth volume of the series 'Practical Methods in Clinical Immunology' and deals with the commonest group of immunological diseases, those of the connective tissues. The book is divided into 2 distinct sections with about two-thirds of the text allocated to a

discussion of the scientific basis and interpretation of laboratory tests in the various connective tissue diseases—rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, mixed connective tissue diseases, rheumatic fever, and the reactive arthritides and amyloid. There is also discussion of antigen-antibody complexes, plasma proteins, lymphocyte identification, and tests of cell-mediated immunity. The remaining third of the text gives detailed descriptions of the performance of the most commonly used of the laboratory tests in a clinical immunology laboratory specialising in the connective tissue diseases.

This is a most valuable short text derived from many years of experience by the authors with a clarity of style and conciseness of description that should leave the reader in no doubt of the value, interpretation, and performance of the tests described. The authors have successfully combined theoretical background material, presented with a commendable absence of indigestible detail, with a straightforward easy-to-follow description of the essential methodology. The book will be indispensable to clinical rheumatologists and associated laboratory staff. No medical library can afford not to have it available for postgraduate and other students of clinical medicine.

D. M. WEIR

Clinics in Rheumatic Diseases. Vol. 7. No. 1. **The Biology of the Joint.** Ed. P. Hasselbacher. Pp. 287. £10.00. W. B. Saunders: Eastbourne. 1981.

As must be evident from recent reviews on other volumes in this series, 'Clinics in Rheumatic Diseases' holds a special place in the rheumatological literature. This volume must enhance what is already a particularly high reputation.

In his foreword the editor states that he has 'asked the contributors . . . to provide an overview of what is known about the physiology of the normal diarthrodial joint' and goes on to assert that he thinks 'the reader will be pleasantly surprised at how much we do know, but also at how much is really little more than speculation.' In my opinion both assertions are borne out; indeed the highlighting of the speculative aspect of what has commonly come to be regarded as fact is most refreshing. For example, in the beautifully illustrated opening chapter by Professor Ghadially on the structure and function of articular cartilage the well-publicised view that the surface of normal articular cartilage is ridged and undulate is challenged convincingly. Equally, the chapter by Drs Simkin and Nilson on trans-synovial exchange of large and small molecules details some of the difficulties of assessing the access of therapeutic agents to joint tissues and concludes with the clinically vital statement that 'Simplistic generalizations such as "all antibiotics get into all joints" are dangerous and may seriously compromise care.' Perhaps equally important in terms of clinical management is the chapter on joint temperature by Alistair Kennedy. The basis of clinical thermography in rheumatology is the assumption that the measurement of infrared radiation from