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

the skin represents an accurate estimation of intra-articular temperature. As the author states, the lack of evidence for a correlation between intra-articular and overlying skin temperature is rather disquieting.

These few examples should serve to illustrate what a stimulating set of reviews this book comprises. At the price it must be one of the top priorities in the selection of book buys.

LUCILLE BITENSKY

Surgical Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis. By N. Gschwend. Pp. 310. £40.50. W. B. Saunders: London. 1981.

This book first appeared in 1968, being extensively rewritten for the 2nd German edition in 1977. This is the first English translation of a very individual account of the development of orthopaedic surgical treatment for rheumatoid arthritis, based upon personal experience of 5000 operations. The full range of surgical endeavour is covered, being particularly strong in hand surgery, though the section on juvenile rheumatoid arthritis is brief. In each section the author takes the reader through the historical aspects of each form of treatment, gives a well referenced description of many of the current surgical alternatives, and ends with his own experience, usually complemented by illustrated accounts of surgical techniques.

I found it heavy going. This is partly because the literal translation by an American is poor, and partly because there are few firm conclusions arising from this experience. The medical chapter that is always included in such texts is, as almost always, of very little value, while the chapter on patient assessment and surgical decision making is poor. Most disappointingly the evaluation of surgical results is largely dismissed as invalid in a progressive disease with marked daily variation in the patient's symptoms and mood. However, this does not deter the author from stating his results in an often arbitrary manner.

The book's strong points are that it is well illustrated and contains such a wealth of information and references that it provides a useful starting point for any surgical review. It may be of interest to surgeons new to the field but probably will not greatly influence established rheumatic surgeons.

The great need in this field is for a book that really provides a team approach to those aspects of the rheumatic diseases that have a potential surgical solution. All pay lip service to this approach, but too often, as here, the account is unbalanced, with consequently a limited readership.

ALASTAIR G. MOWAT

Rehabilitation of the Hand. By Kit Wynn-Parry. Pp. 409. £30.00. Butterworths: Sevenoaks, Kent. 1981.

This is a pleasing book. The format is ideal, the paper and printing are excellent, and the illustrations, both line drawings and photographs, are clear and well arranged.

The chapters have all been revised and brought up to date where necessary, and there is increased emphasis on the rehabilitation of the hand after nerve damage. At first view it may seem unnecessary to include a chapter on anatomy, but again the emphasis is on function rather than structure, and there can be few who will not learn something new from such a chapter. The author's enthusiasm for the restoration of function is evident from the style of writing, and there is constant emphasis on the return of function rather than movements.

The extensive index and the bibliography at the end of each chapter add to the usefulness of the text, and it is certain that no one treating hand injuries or diseases should do so without frequent reference to this work.

J. V. JEFFS

Rehabilitation Management of Rheumatic Conditions. Ed. George E. Ehrlich. Pp. 322. US\$ 42.00. Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore, Maryland. 1981.

This comparatively large book from a well known transatlantic stable replaces but differs from its predecessor, *Arthritis*, by Sidney Licht. It is one of the new Rehabilitation Medicine Library series directed not only to rheumatologists but also to professionals in many adjacent fields. What subjects does it cover and what is its particular contribution to the field?

First, a knowledge of the classification and natural history of the various arthropathies is assumed. There is an interesting chapter entitled epidemiology and statistics which largely concerns itself with some principles of the latter and with planning for 'persuasive studies,' an intriguing area which this reviewer is not, but perhaps should be, familiar. The chapter on drug therapy contains much valuable information on nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Penicillamine is not discussed at length, doubtless because it has only recently been available in the USA for general use. It is also clear that the practicalities of managing a patient on chrysotherapy must differ, without the well-developed general-practitioner service of the UK.

Many of the areas dealt with by this book,—such as splinting, joint conservation, complications of surgery, are appropriate to the UK. In particular, the chapter on complications is most lucid and helpful. Some, such as that on nursing care, are likely to become more so and greatly interested our metrologists (experienced senior nurses who are attached to our rheumatology clinic for many years and following up patients on drug trials by various measurable parameters). However, there are great differences, not in disease but in the practical mechanics of handling it, which cannot be translated across the Atlantic: the sections on nurse practitioner, and vocational assessment, transportation (I found this fascinating), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and organisation of community resources relate closely to the American situation. Perhaps it is inevitable that where we are dealing with the interface of disease and environment the strongly individual nature of the latter should be felt.

ANN CHAMBERLAIN