

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