Society and no mean intellect and an observant clinician, even he in his Bowman lecture on gout and conditions of the eye confesses, 'I must admit little or no evidence as to deposits of urate of soda in any ocular structures. . . . I doubt if it has been shown even in a single case though several observers have suggested its presence. . . . I trust, however, that we are long past the stage of belief which regards such deposit as essential to a gouty inflammation'. It would seem at this point in time that William Heberden's and A. B. Garrod's observations had fallen on relatively stony ground. Even Sherlock Holmes would have had dif-

ficulties in this misty diagnostic jungle, and his creator was merely following up current ideas.

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References

- 1 Doyle A Conan. Non-arthritis Gout. *Lancet* 1884; ii: 978.
- 2 Hutchinson J. The relation of certain diseases of the eye to gout (Bowman lecture). *Lancet* 1884; ii: 901-45.
- 3 Thomas W R. Gouty pneumonia. *Lancet* 1885; ii: 376.
- 4 Fothergill J M. *Lancet* 1885; ii: 808.

Book reviews

Physiotherapy in Rheumatology. By Sylvia Hyde. Pp. 194. £8.80. Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford. 1980.

This book, which is intended primarily for the student physiotherapist, should also be of value to the qualified physiotherapist and members of other disciplines who care for patients suffering from rheumatic diseases.

Sylvia Hyde classifies and outlines the conditions which come under the general heading of rheumatic diseases. Her chapter on muscle and exercise clearly demonstrates the physiology underlying these conditions, which is so essential to understand before practical management of the patient is started. The following chapter on examination and assessment includes objective and subjective tests of the patient as a whole. The importance of baseline data and recorded results of initial examination is stressed. The use of the new Hammersmith myometer to measure muscle strength is demonstrated. Emphasis on teamwork in this field of medicine is made. A chapter on the effective use of hydrotherapy is most useful and is backed up by examples. The final chapters deal with systemic lupus erythematosus and the pathology of the less common diseases.

One weakness is the omission of the importance of basic nursing care of the patient with rheumatoid arthritis, but I think this clearly written and well presented book should be included on the reading list for student physiotherapists and should be found in the library of all departments of physiotherapy.

ELVEEN HARVEY

Rheumatic Fever: A Guide to its Recognition, Prevention and Cure. By Angelo Taranta and Milton Markowitz. Pp. 96. £9.95. MTP Press: Lancaster. 1982.

This is a concise and practical outline of what we know about the recognition, distribution, treatment, and prevention of rheumatic fever, particularly geared to its present-day continuance in the less well developed countries. It includes 14 clear figures and more than 31 references, including 14 dealing with 'developing countries'.

Although paying tribute to the group A β haemolytic streptococcus (1930) as one indisputable factor, it has little to say on pathogenesis, mainly because 50 years later there is indeed little to say. Christensen and his colleagues (1979) have moreover thrown methodological doubts on previous interpretations of indirect immunofluorescent methods (relevant in many different fields), so that those small conclusions that have been drawn about the mode of action of the streptococcus are suspect. This does not really matter except to those still intrigued by the continuing problem of the pathogenesis of a disease where the major exogenous factor is known and where all genetic factors so far recognised have been unconfirmed.

It is a splendid book for its avowed purpose, which is to spread understanding of the very considerable knowledge we have today about recognition, prevention, and treatment. Its authors have been pioneers in this field.

E. G. L. BYWATERS

Rheumatoid Arthritis and Related Conditions. Vol. 5. Ed. Gabriel S. Panayi. Pp. 119. \$23.25. Raven Press: New York. 1981.

Keeping up to date seems an impossible task. Off hand I can think of 13 journals dealing directly with rheumatic diseases and I am sure there must be more. Should we have a prize for whoever can provide the longest list of rheumatological journals?

These annual research reviews are a joy to those who strive to keep up to date and the present volume is no exception. It is nice to know that we will not miss papers published in the *Journal of the Formosan Medical Association*, *Sb Ved Pr Lek Fak Univ Karlovy*, the *Journal of the Kentucky Medical Association*, *Minerva Medica*, and so on. In the present volume there are critical and informed reviews of the recent literature on the pathogenesis, clinical features, and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis together with sections on experimental models, juvenile chronic arthritis, and seronegative spondylarthritis. This volume is extremely welcome and is required reading by all who wish to be well informed. But will it all be out of date by next year?

MALCOLM I. V. JAYSON