examine our own statistics realise how fraught with error these may be. Additional areas of error may be that statistics are related to rheumatologists and do not include the statistics of 'General physicians with an interest in rheumatology'. The pamphlet comments, 'such appointments are not generally regarded as being the optimum method of meeting the needs of rheumatic sufferers'. With the increasing number of these inefficient animals being appointed, we shall have to find a better way of collecting statistics.

J. M. GUMPEL

Ankylosing Spondylitis. By John Moll. Pp. 301. £30.00. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1980.

Ankylosing spondylitis introduced a new era in the understanding of rheumatic diseases. The discovery of its association with HLA B27 has excited clinicians and scientists alike. An impressive cross-section of experts cover the subject comprehensively in this book, edited by John Moll.

Although a fair degree of repetition and overlap exists between the various chapters, this would be more obvious to your reviewer than to most readers, who will pick specific topics for study or revision. However, in the absence of a subject index some important aspects mentioned under different headings may be overlooked. A comprehensive list of references is given at the end of each chapter.

Medical historians will enjoy the introductory chapters on the history, epidemiology, and genetics of ankylosing spondylitis. The relationship with other spondarthritides is succinctly summarised by V. Wright, and it receives mention also in other chapters. F. D. Hart, A. S. Dixon, B. M. Ansell, and I. Haslock cover the clinical aspects in chapters 5, 11, 13, and 24. Their excellent blend of reviewed facts and personal experiences should have been placed in closer proximity to each other.

The evaluation of diagnostic criteria, John Moll's own contribution, suggests that there is still scope for improvement and further work. The concept of preankylosis (chapter 6) may become of greater importance if and when effective disease-modifying drugs become available.

J. Ball's description of pathology is comprehensive and clear, getting the extraskelatal features out of the way first before coming to grips with enthesopathy and pathogenesis. Experimental models of arthritis are discussed by R. G. G. Russell. He is forced to conclude that this avenue has not been very fruitful, as inflammatory joint diseases seem to be virtually confined to the human race.

Diagnostic imaging techniques are discussed with some bias towards more specialised methods, such as quantitative scintigraphy. These are not generally available to many clinicians. However, radiology is well illustrated and discussed by several of the contributors.

Chapters 14 to 24, almost half the book, deal with management. They clearly show how much can and should be done to help those who suffer from this incurable disease. Drug therapy is reviewed by A. G. S. Hill, and a separate chapter deals with the methodology of clinical trials. Rheumatologists are in constant danger of upsetting or harming their patients. The vast information on drug interactions and the mutual effects of diseases and drugs is out-

lined in one of the most fact-packed chapters, exceeded (almost) by its own list of references.

C. B. Wynn Parry makes detailed recommendations on physical therapeutic measures and reviews his own results. M. Anne Chamberlain contributes a sensitive survey of social, domestic, and psychological factors, including sexual aspects, and J. A. D. Anderson reviews occupational factors. In the chapter on radiotherapy I was not convinced that a controlled trial of this treatment is now justified.

The surgical and anaesthetic management of ankylosing spondylitis and its complications are fully described. The case is convincingly made that very special skills are needed in operating on these patients.

Rheumatologists will wish to have regular access to this book and it should also be available to those many other clinicians who are involved in the management of different aspects of the spondarthritides.

W. Y. LOEBL

BIMR Rheumatology. Vol. 1. **The Kidney and Rheumatic Disease.** By P. Bacon and N. Hadler. Pp. 396. £15.00. Butterworths: Sevenoaks, Kent. 1982.

The late Joseph Earl Moore of Johns Hopkins Hospital used to remark that whereas in former days the study of syphilis, then a common disease with widespread manifestations, embraced the whole of general medicine, the same later came to be true of the rheumatic diseases. Modern rheumatology certainly has close connections with every other conceivable medical specialty, a fact which is no doubt responsible for its increasing popularity among young clinicians and investigators.

Nowhere is this better exemplified than by the interface between rheumatology and nephrology. In several rheumatic disorders, as different from one another as systemic lupus erythematosus and gout, the renal aspect may be considerable and sometimes predominant. The prognosis of a patient with apparently uncomplicated rheumatoid arthritis may change drastically as he develops amyloidosis. Physicians using drugs such as analgesics, gold and, penicillamine are all too well aware of various forms of nephrotoxicity.

Bacon and Hadler's book is an admirable exposition of the problem. The first of its 4 sections covers the area of renal disease and SLE and is remarkable for 2 chapters arguing the respective cases for 'aggressive' (J. V. Donadio) and 'conservative' (J. H. Klippel) treatment of renal involvement in lupus. Section 2 deals with vasculitides and renal disease, section 3 with nephrotoxic and tubulointerstitial disease, and section 4 with the ill-understood musculoskeletal manifestations of renal disease. For the most part the individual chapters are comprehensive, well balanced, and well referenced, and any adverse criticisms I had were trivial (Cove-Smith omits original references to aspirin celluria; does Herbert Diamond perhaps overemphasise the toxicity of allopurinol?).

The publishers promise further similar volumes in the series—the heart, the lungs. They have at any rate done well with their inaugural review.

J. T. SCOTT