epidemiology, symptomatology, management, and general disorders. Rightly, the authors concentrate on conditions commonly presenting to the general practitioner, notably soft tissue lesions and backache, and authoritative guidance is given on appropriate management. Local steroid injection techniques are described and the accompanying diagrams are adequate. The text concludes with a chapter on disorders of childhood and another on the disabled patient. An interesting innovation is the self-assessment at the end of the book comprising a multiple choice questionnaire (with answers provided) and a series of essay questions. I wonder how many readers will take advantage of this added bonus.

Rheumatology being such an important component of general practice, it is surprising how little has been written in this field specifically for the general practitioner. This book admirably fills the gap.

R. GRAHAME


The second edition of Helfet's work is a timely reminder of the progress which has been made in the understanding and treatment of knee disorders over the past few years. Much of the book has been rewritten, and the author emphasises the importance of helicoid movement in a chapter on mechanical efficiency of the knee joint and in his description of the helicoid total condylar prosthesis.

There is an interesting though possibly controversial chapter on the knee in athletics, and a short but useful chapter on common tumours about the knee joint. In these days of confusion about instability of the knee joint, the chapter on pathological anatomy of knee joint ligament injuries is a welcome addition. A sensible approach to the surgical treatment of the rheumatoid knee is described and the technical advances in arthroscopic surgery are well covered, although to balance this a chapter on open operations for damaged menisci is still included. The technical shortcomings of the first generation of knee prostheses are well covered in a chapter on complications and malfunction of total knee replacements. The text is clear and the standard of illustrations is extremely high with the notable exception of the upside-down illustration on p. 253.

With 27 guest authors, all leaders in their particular field, the book provides much provocative food for thought. In such a controversial subject as the knee it would be remarkable if the reader found himself in agreement with all the views expressed. On balance Helfet's second edition represents a comprehensive surgical approach, an extremely valuable work of reference, and essential reading for all those involved in the treatment of knee disorders.

A. J. HALL


This is an excellent soft covered book which many would have been proud to write. Written primarily for undergraduates, but clearly of value for house officers, nurses, and therapists on rheumatology units and interested general practitioners, it fulfils its design criteria admirably. These called for a small, inexpensive, concise systematic text, short enough for rapid revision and which was well indexed to allow, checking on a wide range of conditions, treatments, and terms.

The text is easy to read, using italics for emphasis and revision, and includes a few line drawings. All common conditions are adequately described, while many others receive brief but useful coverage. Key references are not included, the author stating that contrary to the belief of their teachers undergraduates do not favour them.

Buy several copies for your unit; they are bound to go missing.

A. G. MOWAT


This volume constitutes the published papers that were read at an international symposium held in Monte Carlo in October 1981. It is true that there were 7 papers on osteoarthritis, including those by distinguished authorities—Sokoloff, Lequesne, and Radin to mention a few. The raison d'être of the meeting and the volume is to draw attention to a new nonsteroidal analgesic anti-inflammatory drug—tiaprofenic acid. There were in fact 6 papers on the biology of this drug and 11 on clinical trials, of which 3 were from the United Kingdom.

It is always useful to collect a series of papers on a new preparation into one volume, but to conceal them in a volume entitled New trends in osteoarthritis is at the best deceptive and at the worst deceitful, since many of the clinical trials reported in this volume relate to rheumatoid arthritis and not osteoarthritis. Such practices are to be deprecated.

R. GRAHAME


This volume is beguilingly slim in appearance. Yet its 142 pages contain a wealth of information concerning hereditary skeletal disorders. The style is crisp, the layout is clear, and the illustrations are well produced and plentiful.

After opening chapters on genetic principals, the investigation and general management of bone dysplasias, and nomenclature and terminology the remaining 12 chapters systematically cover the whole range of epiphyseal and metaphyseal dysplasias as well as spinal anomalies, and even the mucopolysaccharidoses are covered. Each chapter is divided into sections on clinical features, radiographic appearances, genetics, and management.

This book fills a significant hiatus, since the material contained therein is rarely found in standard texts. It should find a place in every medical library and department of orthopaedic surgery and rheumatology.

R. GRAHAME