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Book review

Fine Structure of Synovial Joints. By Feroze N. Ghadially. Pp. 333. £45.00. Butterworths: London. 1983.

Professor Ghadially is well known for previous contributions on ultrastructural appearances, including those of joints. This new book is well produced and generously endowed with high quality photographs, as befit the subject matter. The first four chapters take us through the appearances of normal synovial membrane, articular cartilage, the articular surface, and discs and menisci. The remaining 10 chapters describe the changes in traumatic arthritis, haemophilia and haemarthrosis, villonodular synovitis, rheumatoid and osteoarthritis, ganglia, and some lesions produced experimentally in animals. Ultrastructural studies, including analytical electron microscopy, have an important role to play in the diagnosis and study of crystal-induced joint disease, and it is regretted that this aspect of joint disease has been omitted completely from the book.

Each chapter is well set out and includes a historical and introductory section together with descriptions of naked eye and light microscopical appearances which successfully combine to put the electron microscopy in context. Furthermore the implications of the ultrastructural features are discussed for each topic. There are occasional inaccuracies in the citation of references, but the bibliography for each chapter is good. The author has set out to provide sufficient background to the ultrastructural appearances for the non-specialist to understand the text and likewise enough pathological detail for the non-clinical worker. This is mainly by the use of footnotes and cross-references to a previous more general book by the same author. The approach worked well for the reviewer.

This is a thoughtfully prepared book which is easily read. It must find an important place in the libraries of those interested in the pathology of joints.

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