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Book review

The Heart and Rheumatic Disease. Vol. 2. Ed. by Barbara M. Ansell and Peter A. Simkin. Pp. 292. £24.00. Butterworths: London.

This book is the second in a series of reviews of topics in rheumatology, and follows *The Kidney and Rheumatic Disease*. It has an unusual plan: rather than dealing seriatim with the different rheumatic diseases and their effect on the heart, its chapters, by different authors, are devoted to different aspects of heart disease and the role of rheumatic diseases in each. This is particularly suited, for example, to pericarditis, which can arise in a number of rheumatic diseases and for which a comparative approach

is useful. The same applies to the myocardium and to aortic and mitral valve disease.

Other chapters deal with the conducting system, pulmonary and systemic hypertension, coronary vasculitis, and rheumatic fever, and the final chapter is on diagnostic methods and techniques. Altogether the rheumatic diseases lend themselves well to this approach. There is little overlap between chapters and authors, and a good index facilitates cross-reference on individual diseases.

The book is well produced on high quality paper with excellent illustrations and many references to each chapter. It is a splendid reference book for rheumatology departments and medical libraries.

J. A. COSH