

Book reviews

Complications of Total Hip Replacement. Edited by R S M Ling. Pp. 288. £25.00. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1984.

One of the most significant advances in orthopaedic surgery in the past 25 years has been the development of total replacement of the hip joint. The number of replacement operations now being performed is immense, averaging more than 15 000 a year in Britain alone.

This multiauthor volume, edited by R S M Ling, comes as a timely reminder that this astonishingly successful procedure is by no means free of trouble. The authors, in the various chapters, discuss general and specific complications in considerable detail and place particular emphasis on pre- and interoperative measures which can reduce their incidence. The chapters covering the two commonest and most troublesome late complications, loosening of the prosthesis and deep infection, will be of particular interest, and at the end of the each chapter the reader will find an excellent list of references. Although the book is concerned mainly with the so-called conventional type of cemented replacement, some mention is made of the various types of uncemented prosthesis. There is also a separate chapter by Michael Freeman covering the specific complications encountered with the double cup arthroplasty.

This is a book which should be read by all orthopaedic surgeons in training. It is a book which will also be of considerable interest to the rheumatologist who may well encounter many of the problems discussed in patients who have been referred for replacement surgery.

J L READ

Equipment for the Disabled: Personal Care. 5th edn. By G M Cochrane and E R Wilshere. Pp. 68. £3.50. Oxfordshire Health Authority: Oxford. 1985.

This is the latest edition of one of a dozen illustrated books in a series emanating from Mary Marlborough Lodge, Oxford, covering aids for the disabled which are currently available.

In the foreword it is stated that the majority of such aids provided in any one year in the UK are those related to personal care: bathing, toileting, grooming, and dressing, and this well produced book offers a comprehensive catalogue of such equipment, ranging from the simplest tap turner to expensive adjustable baths.

Each section has an eminently practical introduction entitled 'Points to consider', and these make useful reading. Measurements are provided and approximate prices together with the names and addresses of the manufacturers or suppliers. The compiler states that all items are available now and should remain so for at least a year; this must be difficult to guarantee nowadays.

It is easy to use, well indexed, and has a short bibliography. It is strongly recommended, together with its companions, as a reference book for all departments of rheumatology.

W G WENLEY

Immunogenetics. Eds. G S Panayi and C S David. Pp. 406. £45.00. Butterworths: Sevenoaks, Kent. 1984.

The editors Panayi and David have assembled an impressive international team to review the field of immunogenetics from the viewpoint of the non-specialist (both clinical and non-clinical). The authors have contributed a set of authoritative chapters on the major histocompatibility complex (MHC) genes in mouse and man, molecular immunology of the MHC of the mouse, the genetics of complement and immunoglobulins, immunogenetics of rheumatoid arthritis, SLE, multiple sclerosis, and autoimmune thyroid disease. There are also chapters on T cell clones and monoclonal antibodies, which though excellent chapters in their own right are more immunological than immunogenetic and contain only a minority of information of direct relevance to the central theme of the book.

Although directed at the non-specialist, several of the chapters, particularly those on MHC, are so packed with information that readers without background knowledge will find them hard going. The inevitable publication delay has meant that the most recent references in the book are now two years old. These criticisms apart, this book overall contains a mine of information and is well referenced and attractively presented. It is a recommended buy for rheumatology libraries and those rheumatologists wishing to bring themselves up to date in this area.

D M GRENNAN

Radionuclide Scintigraphy in Orthopaedics. Eds. C S B Galasko and D A Weber. Pp. 266. £28.00. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1984.

This book is a useful introduction to isotope bone imaging for clinicians, especially rheumatologists, with an interest in new developments for imaging bone and joint disorders. It provides a comprehensive guide to the uses of isotope scanning in a wide spectrum of skeletal and articular disorders, including the diseases most commonly encountered in clinical practice.

The uptake of radiopharmaceuticals by the skeleton is a complex biological process, and a more widespread use of isotope bone imaging is likely to lead to a greater understanding and appreciation of the disturbances in