

## 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

bone which precede radiological changes. Of special interest is the chapter on the arthritides, including the use of isotopes to detect synovitis at an early stage, as well as in screening patients with a suspected polyarthropathy. The chapters on metabolic bone disease, avascular necrosis, developmental abnormalities, and fractures will also prove of interest.

A well-balanced clinical approach has been adopted, in which the indications and the limitations for this technique in individual circumstances are discussed.

In this well-illustrated book the authors rightly emphasise the unparalleled sensitivity of isotope bone imaging in detecting bone and joint disorders at an early stage, rather than in discriminating between specific disorders. This book would be a worthwhile acquisition for any rheumatology department with access to, or interest in, radioisotope techniques.

N W GARVIE

**Rheumatoid Arthritis: The Treatment Controversy.** Eds. D Goddard and R Butler. Pp. 162. £27.00. Macmillan: London. 1984.

This book presents the proceedings of a two-day symposium held in March 1984. Senior registrars and a panel of professors and consultants in rheumatology addressed themselves to past, present, and future problems relating to 'second-line' antirheumatic therapy. Detailed and critical reviews of the literature relating to gold, D-penicillamine, corticosteroids, and immunosuppressive agents were provided by individual contributors. These

chapters are bracketed by an introduction on the need for disease modifying drugs and a section on cost-benefit analysis. The final chapter provides a summary of the proceedings. While some may question the list because of its exclusions, the diversity of opinions expressed on these more 'established' preparations suggests that the editors were wise in retaining a select group of therapeutic agents. The chapters are extensively, if somewhat idiosyncratically referenced, and provide a valuable current appraisal of the efficacy and toxicity of these preparations. The inclusion of a chapter on corticosteroids is of interest and points out the discrepancies in our perceived and actual use of these drugs.

After the definitive chapters the ensuing audience discussion is reported verbatim and in total accounts for 50 pages. While this is eminently readable, its scientific value is questionable. Inevitably opinions, often strongly expressed, abound supported more by anecdote than fact. Therapeutic hawks and doves circle and swoop. The discussion sections do offer some insight into the general thinking relating to second-line agents. However, the problems of diagnosis, disease heterogeneity, the optimum time to commence therapy, the periodicity and duration of treatment, and the relevant parameters to measure remain unanswered. The general tenor of discussion was against further large multicentre trials employing placebo controls. Numerous 'interesting' future studies were proposed. Whether these will dramatically influence the usage of currently available second-line agents remains to be seen.

Despite caveats, this book is a useful addition to any departmental library because of its detailed re-evaluation of drugs in everyday rheumatological use.

I D GRIFFITHS

## Notes

### Pain in the community: a clinical approach

The 8th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Pain Society will be held in Melbourne on 5-8 February 1986 to discuss the topic 'Pain in the community'. Further information from Dr Terence F Little, Pain Management Centre, Royal Southern Memorial Hospital, 260 Kooyong Road, Caulfield 3162, Victoria, Australia.

### Ballabio and Gigante awards for European studies in rheumatology

To honour the memory of Professor C B Ballabio and D

Gigante, honorary Presidents of the Italian Society of Rheumatology (SIR) and of the Italian League against Rheumatic Diseases (LIMAR) for 1985, the SIR has announced two study awards of 5 000 000 lire each, one dedicated to Prof C B Ballabio, for scientific research work, and the other dedicated to Prof D Gigante, founder of LIMAR, for work connected with the epidemiological and social aspects of rheumatic diseases. Candidates must be under 50 years of age on the closing date, 30 September 1985. Application should be made to Prof Umberto Ambanelli, Secretary General of SIR (Via Carducci 30-43100 Parma) and documentary evidence of the candidate's activity in the scientific and epidemiological social fields should be provided. A maximum of five papers should be enclosed with the application (in Italian, French, English, Spanish, or German; and summary in French or English) illustrating the work of the candidate. The award will be presented in Italy in 1985 or 1986.