Articular Cartilage and Osteoarthritis. Eds K E Kuettner, R Schleyerbach, J G Peyron, V C Hascall. (Pp 800; \$111.50.) New York: Raven Press, 1992. ISBN 0-88167-862-7.

Results from a workshop conference held in Wiesbaden in May 1991 are published here. The 47 reviews provide a comprehensive update of the biochemistry, physiology, and morphology of normal and osteoarthritic cartilage, and also touch on selected aspects of bone biochemistry, animal models, experimental pharmacology, and clinical areas relating to osteoarthritis. Edited discussion occurs after each review and the final section comprises one to two page abstracts of more focused work presented at the meeting.

The editors and Raven Press are to be congratulated on producing this volume, with over 200 contributing authors, so soon after the meeting. Leading centres in osteoarthritis research from many countries are represented, and despite inevitable variability the standard of most of these well referenced reviews is high. Despite its 800 page thickness, the quality of production and the liberal interspersing with illustrations, tables, and prints make this a visually pleasing book. For those interested, or wishing to become interested, in basic science relating to osteoarthritis this up to date compilation is not only stimulating but also good value.

*Rheumatology Unit,
City Hospital,
Nottingham NG5 1PB,
United Kingdom*

MICHAEL DOHERTY

Osteoarthritis: Diagnosis and Medical/Surgical Management. 2nd ed. Eds R W Moskowitz, D S Howell, V M Goldberg, H J Mankin. (Pp 761; \$125 (£81).) Philadelphia: Saunders, 1992. Distributed by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. ISBN 0-7216-6581-0.

This second edition follows eight years after the first and aims to provide comprehensive information on osteoarthritis for those involved with health care delivery. The book is divided into four sections: the first covers basic aspects (epidemiology, pathology, biochemistry, and pathogenesis); the second, general aspects of diagnosis (eg. clinical features, investigations, differential diagnosis); the third, general management (medical and surgical); and the fourth, composite information on a regional basis. Although readily identified as the second edition of its successful forerunner, there are differences: part of the authorship has changed, some chapters have been expanded, and a few new chapters added (eg. 'Cartilage repair', 'Natural course and prognosis').

As with the first edition the book presents a decidedly American perspective, with only five of the 50 contributors coming from outside the USA. The orientation of the book is very much for clinicians: information is often presented confidently without critical appraisal, and the difficult areas and gaps in our knowledge (eg. meaningful epidemiology, classification, associated crystal deposition) tend to be de-emphasised rather than highlighted and discussed. Nevertheless, though the book may not stimulate too many

questions, it succeeds in producing a precis of much of the data relating to osteoarthritis, as well as a working framework for its diagnosis, investigation, and management. Most chapters are well written and referenced, and overall the standard of production is high. It is useful to have a single, well referenced volume dedicated to osteoarthritis, and this second (improved) edition successfully fills that gap.

*Rheumatology Unit,
City Hospital,
Nottingham NG5 1PB,
United Kingdom*

MICHAEL DOHERTY

Rehabilitation of early rheumatoid arthritis. Eds M H Liang, M K Logigian (Pp 147; £35.) Boston: Little Brown, 1992. Distributed in Europe by Churchill Livingstone. ISBN 0-316-53087-5.

These American authors with their distilled experience from Boston's Robert B Brigham Hospital set out a fairly specialised 140 page text. It assumes that the reader is knowledgeable in diagnosis, drug, and orthopaedic surgical treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, and therefore concentrates on practical management, mostly through physical treatments and advice.

The American influence appears early on with the doctor-patient relationship offered as all-embracing, whereas in more modern departments in the United Kingdom the therapists and metrologists often take on an educational and therapy role themselves, using agreed protocols.

The book deals first with general aspects, such as the clinician's role; functional assessment, though little is said about home assessments; fatigue, which is mostly about exercise, written primarily by the director of cardiac rehabilitation; and posture. Later chapters deal with the spine, shoulder, elbow, wrist and hand, hip and knee, and foot and ankles. The final chapter on psychological aspects gives advice on the American social legislature, which those in the lower socioeconomic groups, particularly, would need.

Each chapter is followed by a suggested reading list of a more than adequate number of journals and books published from the 1940s onwards. Useful appendices offer a patient's guide to exercise, aids, and choosing shoes, though orthotics is not dealt with in any detail.

Overall, the book is an interesting insight into the American view of rehabilitation in early rheumatoid arthritis which also, perhaps unintentionally, highlights the advantages of our own National Health Service. It would provide useful knowledge for new workers in this field from a group who have made a detailed and thorough study of the subject themselves. The level of discussion would particularly suit therapy staff as well as rheumatologists in training.

*Department of Rheumatology
Derbyshire Royal Infirmary
London Road
Derbyshire DE1 2QY
United Kingdom*

R WILLIAMS