that electromyography has little to offer in the management of
spinal disease. Treatments both traditional and unconventional are all
extensively reviewed and a lot of common sense advice on the
management of neck pain is provided but, as one reads, it
becomes very clear that, despite being a frequent source of
pain, the cervical spine is a sadly neglected area in the field
of research. Conclusion—an excellent browse and a good reference
book to have in the department or library. If I can persuade
you to get hold of a copy of this book, may I also recommend
that you read the preface and introduction, which alone are
worth buying the book for.

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The management of common metabolic bone disorders.
Gordon Campbell, Juliet Compston, Adrian Crisp. (Pp 180;
hardback £37.50; paperback £14.95.) Cambridge:
0-521-43037-2; paperback 0-521-43623-0.

The target audience for this book is wide, the authors hoping
that it will appeal to consultants and senior registrars in general medicine, geriatric medicine, rheumatology, endo-
crinology and departments of general surgery, and to general
practitioners. In this small book they provide an excellent
introduction to the management of metabolic bone disorders.
Following the first chapter, which covers pathogenesis and
investigation of metabolic bone disease, the book is reasonably
weighted with regards to the space given for the conditions
covered. Thus the largest chapter is that for osteoporosis, with
a good section on hormone replacement therapy. The omission of a specific section on steroid induced osteoporosis is
disappointing, and the difficulties in management of this
important cause of osteoporosis mentioned only in passing.
The chapter on Paget's disease is comprehensive and well
written, reflecting its author's experience and enthusiasm for
the disorder. The remaining chapters are equally well written
and cover osteomalacia, hypercalcaemic states (concentrating
on primary hyperparathyroidism and hypercalcaemia of
malignancy), hypocalcaemic disorders (including renal osteo-
dystrophy), and concluding with a short chapter on rare
diseases which may present with fractures.

Throughout the book there are practical comments with
indications and dosage recommendations for drugs which are in
common usage. The chapters are structured and well illustrated. References are sparse, but this book is meant to be a source of practical information rather than references, and will appeal to all, particularly those who
want a book which is easy to read and which covers common
clinical problems in the field.

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Autoimmune connective tissue diseases. Eds M A
Khamashita, J Font, G R V Hughes. (Pp 266; £56.00.)
Ediciones Doyma, 1993 (distributed by BMJ Publishing

As befits its provenance, this book has a predominance of
authors (25 of 47) from Spain. It reflects the established
personal links between the St Thomas's Hospital unit and
colleagues in that country, but also the recently expanding and
welcome contributions from Spain to the international
medical literature. That such contributions are increasingly in
English reflects the power of the American biomedical
establishment. Although English is the second language of
perhaps two-thirds of the contributors, on the whole the book
reads well. Errors are probably no more frequent than in some
primarily English language texts and include 'Grotton's'
papules and 'coexistence' (page 142), 'certain' in place of
'creative' (page 199) and an inconsistent use of 'serologic' and
'serological' (I favour the latter, pushing back American
usage).

There is overlap, perhaps inevitable in discussion of this
cluster of syndromes which conventionally need a special
category, 'Overlaps,' to satisfy the pigeon-holers. Thus
discussion of anti-phospholipid and anti-neutrophil antibodies features in more than one chapter, as does
cytostatic drug therapy. Some may feel a little short changed as regards laboratory science, others that the subject of therapeutics is somewhat compressed. In contrast, I thought
the reviews of interleukins and idiotypes provided excellent
introductions to complex areas. For the clinician, or possibly
the interested bench scientist, there is plenty to ponder on,
such as the thoughtful sections on infection, pregnancy and
SLE itself. Phospholipids receive commendably restrained but
useful attention. The treatment section is covered in two
sequential chapters, but might still be thought to fall between
being an overview and a clinical manual.

There are few references more recent than 1990, which
illustrates the problem of a text which is something between
a reference book and a review. Perhaps CDRom technology will soon enable us to receive regular supplements in the form of
one of the several review journals specifically linked to a
small textbook such as this. It is nevertheless difficult to find
serious fault with this useful addition to the bookshelf.

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Lawrence's text. It is far more 'user-friendly', easier to read,
and each chapter contains invaluable referenced summary
tables of published work on its subject.

Generally the book is well referenced and reasonably up
to date. The authors have relied on four additional contributors
for some of the chapters. Although this provides additional
expertise and these chapters are of high quality (particularly
the section on soft tissue rheumatism by Peter Croft), some
are over long and don't always fit in with the general pattern
and feel of the book.

I was surprised by the omission of some information on
diseases which would have been useful to the rheumatologist
such as Paget's disease, the vasculitides and others of the rarer
connective tissue diseases. Even if little is known of these
conditions, a small section on the limits of our knowledge
would have been helpful.

Overall, however, the book has a good feel about it and is
easy to 'dip' into; rheumatologists will also find it an
invaluable source of reference for estimates of prevalence of
disease and the role of risk factors. I would recommend it for
all academic rheumatology units.

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Epidemiology of the rheumatic diseases. Alan J Silman,
Marc C Hochberg. (Pp 504; £60.00.) Oxford: Oxford

The last comprehensive text on this subject covering the
rheumatic diseases was by Lawrence and published 17 years
ago. A comparison between these two texts tells us quite a lot
about which areas of epidemiological research have progressed
and which have remained fairly stagnant. There has been
disappointingly little movement in subjects such as the
seronegative arthritides, ankylosing spondylitis and back
pain, but many recent advances in osteoarthritis and
osteoarthritis. The book, however, is a vast improvement on

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