are few readers who will fail to find in this book some case report which bears on their own particular interests in medicine, and all will pay a tribute of admiration to the wide knowledge and clinical acumen of the author.  G. D. KERSLEY.

Rheumatism.  By H. Warren Crowe, D.M.(Oxon), B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

The name of H. Warren Crowe has been associated with "Rheumatism" for many years, and despite the changing fashions of therapy, he has remained constant to the vaccine treatment of the rheumatic diseases.

In the preface to this second edition of his book the author states that great advances have been made in the treatment of the rheumatic diseases since the publication of the first edition and goes on to say "... It is significant that no change has been found necessary in the technique of vaccine therapy". The confidence inherent in this statement manifests itself through the whole book and constitutes both its strength and its weakness.

Its forcefulness and wide appeal lie in the exact detail of its instructions regarding the handling of the different types of rheumatic disability. So long as the aetiology of this disability group remains obscure and its response to treatment unpredictable, so long will the problem remain a worry to the general practitioner dealing with individual treatment. This book contains much useful general information and practical advice apart from the detail regarding vaccine therapy, and its appeal is evidenced by the appearance of this second edition.

The author himself admits that some of the views expressed are individual and not acceptable to many of the recognized authorities in this field. Though modern thought has tended to swing away from the idea of infection as the primary factor in arthritis, the author claims that infection is the most important factor in all rheumatic conditions whether articular or non-articular. In his opinion osteo-arthritis is infective in origin and "the presence of a microbe is essential to the disease". He also states that acute infective arthritis is distinct from rheumatoid arthritis from which it can be distinguished clinically and radiologically, saying that "in its later stages it becomes osteo-arthritis and is quite indistinguishable from it".

His technique of vaccine therapy aims not at desensitization but, by small doses, at tissue sensitization or immunization, and at periodic stimulation. His technique of gold therapy is also by small doses (varying from 4 to 0.04 mg.) and he favours the colloidal preparations of the metal. He considers gold therapy to be akin to vaccine therapy in so far as its action is not chemotherapeutic but immunizing. Small dosage is also claimed to give the best results in local analgesic injection of tender spots. He advises that no more than 0.2 cc. be used of an 0.5 per cent. procaine solution.

Admirable and praiseworthy though such independence of thought and action may be, modern medicine demands that certain basic standards of assessment of improvement and measures of disability shall be satisfied and followed up over long periods before therapeutic claims can be justified. Clinical impressions and
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assessment couched in vague terms (such as "much better", "improved", "results good") are of no real significance in modern scientific investigation. The more thoughtful reader would like to see more evidence brought forward in substantiation of the therapeutic claims made. Such evidence would require follow-up reports and the use of standards of assessment of disability and progress adequate to the demands of modern research. The addition of such a chapter would add considerably to the value of this book. J. W. T. PATTERSON.


Dr. Joseph Hollander has undertaken the considerable task of editing and revising the new edition of this well-known book. He has called to his aid a number of distinguished contributors. Though this book has always been a complete work of reference, it seemed to some, in former editions, lacking in critical appraisal, and all views were quoted without discrimination. This has been altered by the new editor and the value of the work greatly enhanced thereby. At the same time the extensive references have been kept up to date and the many photographs and drawings are as good as ever. One of the features of former editions were the clear tables on differential diagnosis throughout the book; these have been retained and extended, though some workers in this country would like to see one differentiating rheumatoid arthritis from ankylosing spondylitis.

Dr. Wallace Graham has written a first-class account of the painful shoulder with its problems of differential diagnosis and treatment, and also an excellent note on the organization of an arthritis clinic, which reflects the views of many in Great Britain.

Dr. Richard Freyberg has a well-balanced chapter on gold salt therapy, in which he weighs carefully the evidence for and against this form of treatment. He concludes that gold salts are of value if carefully controlled, but points out very clearly the complications which may occur.

Dr. Edward Boland has written an excellent chapter on the psychogenic factors in the rheumatic diseases, including psychogenic rheumatism, and this account, which is the result of his own and Hench's work in the army, will be carefully studied by many. He also deals with the subject of spondylitis, and gives a fine description of the natural history of the disease and its various clinical aspects.

Dr. Edward Rosenberg contributes on many subjects, including the pathological aspects and the visceral manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis, and gives excellent summaries of recent knowledge on these and the other matters with which he deals.

Many readers will turn with pleasure to the chapters by Dr. John Lansbury on the endocrine glands, allergy, and the collagen group of diseases. These are clearly written, and though short in the present edition will have to be expanded in the future. He sifts the arguments as to the role of allergy in the rheumatic diseases and concludes that we must "wait and see; since the pathogenesis of both