in medicine, we all may have to aid and care for those many who may be burned in disasters and in war. They do not present the answers to all these questions but they provide food for thought and a foundation for preparedness which none should ignore.

The script has been well digested before presentation; it is concise but lucid; it is well reasoned and not a word should be missed. The practical aspect is paramount and is supported by considerable experience, with special emphasis on the saving of life by an adequate understanding of burn shock, the healing of burns, the out-patient treatment of minor burns and the care of subsequent contractures.

This short monograph is highly commended to all members of the medical profession and the authors are to be congratulated upon their achievement, the result of much hard work, a model of study and clear thinking which will be of great help to all who read it—as all should, be they specialists, general practitioners, medical students or members of first aid organisations.—George H. MORLEY.

The Rheumatic Diseases. By G. D. KERSLEY, *O.B.E.*, T.D., D.L., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Fourth edition. 9×5½ in. Pp. 169, with 59 figures. Index. 1962. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. Price 21s.

The fourth edition of this book has been completely revised. It is written for the final year student and general practitioner. The first chapter, entitled "Stress—Steroids and A.C.T.H., Immunology and Heredity," is packed with information—perhaps more than most practitioners require, so could be read with value by candidates for higher medical examinations. There is a new chapter on the systemic rheumatic diseases, and in this, brief, but complete enough, accounts of systemic lupus, polyarteritis nodosa and similar conditions are given. The other arthritic rheumatic conditions are described in the following chapters. The final chapter dealing with resettlement and help in the home should be of value to the general practitioner.

The section dealing with the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis is a little disappointing as the great value of phenylbutazone which has revolutionised the treatment of the condition is not sufficiently stressed. Too much attention is paid to plaster beds, spinal braces and radiotherapy which is now rarely used.

There are unfortunately several printing errors and on pages 42 and 110 where non-articular should read mon-articular this could easily lead to a confusion of ideas. These are minor criticisms and do not detract from its value.—V. L. STEINBERG.

Muscle as a Tissue. Proceedings of a Conference held at the Lankenau Hospital, November 3–4, 1960. Editors: Kaare RODAHL, M.D., Director of Research, Lankenau Hospital, Philadelphia; and Steven M. HORVATH, Ph.D., Head, Department of Physiology, Division of Research, Lankenau Hospital, Philadelphia. Editorial Assistant: Marguerite P. S. Risch, Division of Research, Lankenau Hospital, Philadelphia; with twenty-two other participants. 9¼×6½ in. Pp. ix+331, with many figures and tables. Index. 1962. New York, Toronto, London: The Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. Price £5 16s. 6d.

This is a record of an international research conference held in November 1960 at the Lankenau Hospital, Philadelphia. The pattern followed is that of short papers by acknowledged authorities with verbatim reports of subsequent discussion. Without in any way detracting from the importance of papers by such authors as Ragnar Granit and A. G. Szent-Gyorgyi, this scheme inevitably leads to the delivery of highly condensed accounts of intricate matters to an audience no doubt already fully acquainted with the necessary background information. The enquiring clinician requires a more gradual introduction to the mysteries of muscle structure and function while the expert will wish to consult the original work. The section on "Muscular Performance" contains much of interest, particularly the observations of E. W. Christensen on lactic acid blood levels and fatigue. The chapter on "Physical Performance Capacity of the Older Individual" by K. Rodahl and B. Issekutz is informative on the possibilities and effects of training. There is virtually no attempt to deal with diseases of muscle. The discussion, especially when directed by Dr Hench, is often pleasantly spontaneous.

The conference was clearly a successful venture but, for reasons already stated, this report is perhaps too specialised and too condensed to be of general value.—W. B. MATTHEWS.