ankylosing spondylitis and in disc protrusion it is contained in the following sentence: "If conservative treatment is without avail, surgery is resorted to." But six pages are then devoted to the infiltration of lumbar nerve roots and lumbar discography!

The whole book is beautifully produced on high quality, glazed paper and if there is one irritation which might be removed in later editions, it is the frequent change from vertical to horizontal layout and back again, which necessitates turning the whole volume through a right angle each time. In the final assessment, the authors are to be congratulated on achieving so much in a most venturesome and praiseworthy experiment.—F. G. St Clair STRANGE.

Progress in Clinical Rheumatology. Edited by Allan St J. DIXON, M.D., M.R.C.P., Consultant Physician Rheumatism Departments, St Stephen's and St Mary Abbots Hospitals, London. 9½ × 6½ in. Pp. x+372, with 82 figures and some tables. Index. 1965. London: J. & A. Churchill Limited. Price 72s.

As the editor states in the preface, this is not a text-book but an attempt to bring forward selected areas in which progress has been made, and as such it succeeds magnificently.

The chapters are all of a high level. Dr Malcolm Thompson contributes an excellent account of the visceral, vascular and neuritic factors of rheumatoid arthritis, a disease which, as he says, "may involve any tissue or organ from the hairs of the scalp to the soles of the feet."

Dr P. A. Casagrande of Buffalo has written a good chapter on surgical treatment of the upper extremities in rheumatoid arthritis. He points out there are some patients with severe hand deformity who retain good and painless function. He also makes the point that the height of the sedimentation rate and the fact that the patient is having corticosteroid treatment are not necessarily contra-indications for surgery. He does not advocate acromionectomy in the painful rheumatoid shoulder, and suggests that occasionally excision of the outer end of the clavicle may be needed. In the severely involved elbow joint he suggests excision of the synovial membrane and the radial head. He thinks that ulnar drift can be corrected by surgery but few cases have been followed up long enough to be certain of this.

There is one disappointing omission in this chapter and that is any mention of methods of assessing hand function, such as the grip test or similar measurements. One hopes that in centres undertaking hand surgery objective measurements will be used, because without these we may never know the percentage of successes or improve our selection of the type of case which is most suitable for operation. The surgery of rheumatoid arthritis is a very promising field and it would be a pity if it fell into disrepute because of inadequate follow-up studies.

Mr John Charnley's chapter on low friction arthroplasty is of great interest. As he points out, hip surgery in rheumatoid arthritis poses particularly difficult problems because of the soft state of the bone due to the disease. The use of cement to bond a prosthesis is promising and new materials are under trial. As he says, long term follow-up studies are necessary and so the work is inevitably slow.

The section on systemic diseases of connective tissue, by Professor E. G. L. Bywaters and Dr J. T. Scott, epitomises well the progress in clinical knowledge in this group of diseases; this chapter is delightfully written and full of up-to-date information. Patients with various types of bone disease frequently attend a rheumatism department, and Dr Scott deals with the conditions and differential diagnosis which must be borne in mind in a most interesting manner.

One of the best features of this small book is the valuable and discriminating list of references at the end of each chapter. The study of the rheumatic diseases has become one of the growing points of medicine out of which has emerged the sub-speciality of rheumatology. Judging by the calibre of the contributions to this book its future is in very good hands.—Oswald SAVAGE.

Girdlestone's Tuberculosis of Bone and Joint. Revised by E. W. SOMERVILLE, M.B., F.R.C.S.(Ed.), Orthopaedic Surgeon, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford; and M. C. WILKINSON, M.B., F.R.C.S.(Eng.), Hon. Consulting Surgeon, Notley Hospital, Essex, Formerly Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons, England. Third edition. 9½ × 7 in. Pp. 220, with 150 figures (three in colour) and 3 tables. Index. 1965. New York, Toronto and London: Oxford University Press. Price 50s.

The production of this book is timely, as the authors point out in their preface. The previous edition was printed in 1952 at a time when chemotherapy had just become available for the treatment of tuberculosis. Although it was suggested that this might bring radical changes, the book was devoted to stressing the treatments advocated by Hugh Owen Thomas and Sir Robert Jones. This new edition,

however, gives an account of the changes that have been brought about by chemotherapy. This has removed the fears of sinus formation following surgery, so that the application of surgical principles as in other infections is now possible.

The layout of the book has remained much the same. The chapter headings are virtually unaltered but a change for the better has been the increased size of print and spacing, which has made the book more easily readable. In addition the text has been reduced, in part owing to the irrelevancy of some of the old text—such as “amputation as a life-saving operation”—and in part by suitable revision.

Although there is much that is excellent, some criticisms must be made. A number of the illustrations, even allowing for the difficulties of reproduction of radiographs of tuberculosis, are difficult to read and are of doubtful value. Judicious retouching or more use of line drawings might have helped. A further lapse is the showing of hip joint movement by photographs in which the pelvis is clothed and unmarked.

Since tuberculosis is still very common in underdeveloped countries it must be assumed that this book will be in demand there. It might in consequence have been valuable to consider the merits and demerits of ambulant treatment. The advantages of balanced suspension for plaster beds and hip spicas might also have been mentioned.

All in all, however, there is no doubt that this is an excellent book. The authors have a very wide experience in the treatment of this condition and this fact is evident throughout. It can be recommended to undergraduates and undoubtedly should be read by any who may have to treat patients suffering from this disease.—J. P. JACKSON.

La Marche et les Boiteries. Étude des Marches Normales et Pathologiques. (A Study of Normal and Abnormal Gait.) By Robert, Jean and Pierre DUCROQUET, with the collaboration of M. SAUSSEZ. Foreword by Professor Lucien LÉGER. Drawings by M. DUDOUET. 13×10 in. Pp. 280, with many figures. Index. 1965. Paris: Masson et Cie. Price 90 F.

This book is clearly a labour of love. It is almost a family heirloom on the subject of normal and abnormal gait, since it is based on a century of continuous interest in this subject by the family Ducroquet. The book is in direct lineal descent from “the great Marey” through Charles Ducroquet (the grandfather who knew and fervently admired Marey), Robert Ducroquet (the father) and Jean and Pierre the sons. No one will fail to learn something from the clinical observations of gait presented and illustrated by line drawings in this book, but whereas in 1873 the great work of Marey was half a century before its time, I am afraid that this book, in the manner of handling and presenting the problem, is two or three decades behind the times. Analysis of gait by cinematography, even if done in three simultaneous planes of reference, is now an exhausted subject, and there exist a number of studies which combine cinematography with force recording and with electromyography. Contemporary interest in gait involves metrology, in regard to time and force, and the book is not helpful in this field.—John CHARNLEY.

Spezielle Frakturen- und Luxationslehre. (A Textbook of Special Fractures and Dislocations.) Editor-in-Chief Professor H. NIGST, Director of the Department of Surgery of the Locomotor System of Basle University Clinic, and Chief of the Institute of Accident Surgery of Basle University. Associate Editor Professor Ernst BAUMANN. Vol. II. 1. The Elbow Joint. 10½×7¼ in. Pp. viii+234, with 204 figures in 585 illustrations, Index. 1965. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Price DM 115.

There is something rather terrifying about omniscience, and the majority of reviewers, feeling this sense of alarm after perusing a book, exorcise it by finding some omission. Having read the first volume of the series (*Spezielle Frakturen- und Luxationslehre*. (A Textbook of Special Fractures and Dislocations.) Vol. III. The Hip Joint and Proximal Part of the Thigh.) and reviewed it favourably (47-B, 205), one can only say that this book is a worthy addition, and indeed adds to their reputation for clarity and completeness. Every aspect of elbow injury or injury to soft tissues around the elbow is carefully set out and profusely illustrated. There is more than adequate acknowledgment of English sources of reference.

The book is unique in being the first serious German textbook I have ever come across which permits itself a funny story, which may be retailed here: “In a hotel in the mountains the owner asked me to help a woman who had injured her elbow in a ski-ing accident. I agreed, and diagnosed a dislocation of the elbow. Under such conditions I had often reduced a dislocation without an anaesthetic, and the attempt to do this was agreed. I commenced the slow, gradually increasing traction, over which I anticipated to take about five minutes. Just at the moment there was some