the disadvantage of prolonged fixation in terms of immobility and impairment of respiratory function, and the disadvantages of early spinal fusion in terms of loss of mobility, loss of trunk growth and increased incidence of pseudarthrosis. For these reasons he does not advise spinal fusion before the age of nine years in girls and eleven and a half years in boys. He shows that after successful fusion the fused region of the spine does not grow. He aptly states that spondylodesis which prevents recurrence but allows growth is equivalent to squaring the circle. The author's experience of internal fixation as an adjunct to spinal fusion is relatively recent and he does not have much to say on this subject. It is interesting that he uses the distraction rod only and does not use the compression rods of the Harrington apparatus.

There is a chapter on the neurological complications of scoliosis which reviews the literature but does not come to any firm conclusions except on the value of preventive treatment. The chapter on lung function in scoliosis is excellent and deserves very careful reading. The final section on x-ray interpretation unfortunately does not consider the difficult question of the estimation of rotation and lordosis, but is a good exposition of the conventional methods of measuring x-rays.

This is an extremely interesting book and should be read by all those interested in spinal deformities. It is obvious that the author has followed a large number of cases with great care over a number of years and that any deviation from what might be termed orthodox treatment must be judged against his results; he shows a number of excellent results, especially in lower thoracic and thoraco-lumbar curves.—Robert ROAF.

Modern Trends in Rheumatology—1. Edited by Alan G. S. HILL, M.C., F.R.C.P.(Ed.), M.R.C.P., Director, Oxford Regional Rheumatic Diseases Research Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, with thirty contributors. 8½ × 6 in. Pp. xii+394, with many figures, 1 plate in colour and some tables. Index. 1966. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. Price 95s.

In the past three years there have been three good books reviewing the present state of rheumatology: Copeman's *Textbook of the Rheumatic Diseases*, Hollander's *Arthritis* and Dixon's *Recent Advances in Rheumatology*. With so much already available it is encouraging that Alan Hill has sought the help of people most of whom have not contributed to the other books, and so has produced an excellent volume covering new ground.

The early chapters review different aspects of research being done to clarify the etiology of rheumatic disorders. Later there are chapters on conservative management, including drug therapy, and two chapters on orthopaedic surgery. Finally there are very good descriptions of clinical syndromes which have been more clearly defined in recent years: particularly chondrocalcinosis, polymyalgia rheumatica, Behcet's syndrome, Reiter's disease and erythema nodosum. Every chapter is good and there is much to interest any physician or surgeon who treats rheumatic disorders.

It is disappointing that none of these books covers adequately the orthopaedic aspects of the rheumatic disorders. For a true balance there should be much more space devoted to orthopaedic contributions in diagnosis, management and research. In this book there are thirteen small pages on the surgery of rheumatoid arthritis and twelve pages on the surgery of osteoarthritis, while forty pages are devoted to auto-immunity. However, this is the only fault in a very interesting book.—D.A. BREWERTON.

Emergency Surgery of the Hand. By Erik MOBERG, Sahlgrenska Sjukhuset, Göteborg. Translated by W. M. McQUILLAN, Senior Lecturer in Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Edinburgh. 7¼ × 4½ in. Pp. 74, with 38 figures. Index. 1967. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Price 10s. 6d.

This is a small book by a Swedish surgeon who is well known for his work in the field of hand surgery. The balance of the book as a whole is good and the exposition of basic principles is clear and thorough. It is unfortunate that on one or two basic points advice is given which would not be accepted by the majority of surgeons in this country. It is unlikely, for instance, that many surgeons would agree that "The Reverdin and Thiersch grafts . . . have been largely superseded in the majority of cases by the free full thickness graft which gives better results."—I. F. K. MUIR.