The final message which the chapter conveys to those who wish to practise amputation combined with immediate prosthetic fitting is clear. The method can only succeed in a hospital which handles a considerable volume of amputation work, maintains a large specialised team, can shoulder a not insignificant financial burden and, last but not least, has full prosthetic workshop facilities on the premises. A well presented and handy volume. That too much of it is written in the first person is only a minor irritation.—P. SEELIG.

Clinical Rheumatology. By James A. BOYLE, M.D.(Glasg.), M.R.C.P.(Edin.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.), Senior Lecturer in Medicine, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, Glasgow, and the University Department of Medicine, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; and W. Watson BUCHANAN, M.D.(Glasg.), F.R.C.P.(Edin.), F.R.C.P.(Glasg.), Consultant in Charge, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, Glasgow. 25 × 18 cm. Pp. xii + 587, with many figures, 3 in colour. Index. 1971. Oxford and Edinburgh: Blackwell Scientific Publications. Price £12.

This book from the Centre for Rheumatic Diseases in Glasgow is a notable addition to the current texts on rheumatology and undoubtedly meets the need for a compact and concise account of the rheumatic diseases, which have for too long been neglected by physicians and surgeons alike.

In recent years orthopaedic surgeons have taken a much greater interest in the surgery of rheumatoid arthritis, but this has been mainly in the techniques of synovectomy and the prosthetic replacement of severely damaged joints, with too little emphasis on a better understanding of the pathology, immunology and medical treatment of these diseases, which is essential to correct surgical management. Your reviewer has read the text from cover to cover with interest and profit. It is a pleasure to read and is profusely illustrated, the radiographic reproductions being of exceptionally good quality. There are, unfortunately, one or two lapses: some of the radiographs (Figs. 5.15, 14.16a and 16.6c) are reproduced upside down and the legend of Figure 16.4 does not refer to the illustration. At the end of each chapter there are numerous references (2,773 in all) for those desirous of undertaking further reading!

In places the authors stray beyond their brief, particularly in the chapter on miscellaneous forms of arthritis, in which conditions such as pigmented villonodular synovitis, synovial tumours, genetic disorders of the skeletal system, shoulder cuff lesions and caisson disease of bone, are discussed. Their relevance to a textbook on the rheumatic diseases is questionable and this is in many respects the least satisfactory chapter in the entire book. It is also surprising that two well-informed physicians should indulge so freely in descriptions of surgical treatment, of which they can have little first-hand knowledge. It is a number of years since Charnley demonstrated that Teflon was an unsuitable material for the acetabular component of a hip prosthesis, and intra-articular corticosteroids are recommended in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis without emphasising the risk of producing a destructive arthropathy. Presumably these disasters of steroid therapy do not commonly find their way to rheumatologists.

These criticisms detract little from the general excellence of this book, which can be confidently recommended to orthopaedic surgeons. It should certainly find a place in the library of any training centre. The price of £12 is high, even for these inflationary times.—R. BARNES.

The Blood Supply of Bone. An Approach to Bone Biology. By Murray BROOKES, M.A., D.M., D.L.O. 22 × 14 cm. Pp. x + 338, with many figures and tables. Index. 1971. London: The Butterworth Group. Price £6.50.

The title of this book is much too modest to describe its real contents. Of course, the description of the blood supply of bone is detailed with erudite clarity; all types of bone are included. There are, however, many other facets of bone vascularity, including some pathological processes, explained in a straightforward and simple fashion. There is an instructive and interesting historical introduction and there are chapters on growth cartilages and synovial joints. The last three chapters are primarily of clinical interest. The effects of disturbed circulation on bone and bone growth are discussed, including the difficult problem of bone lengthening.

Bone vascularity in fracture repair is considered in depth, with discussion of delayed union, and the rate of union at different ages. The debatable effect of blood supply in osteoarthritis is argued in the manner of a research thesis. The diagrams are excellent, but the histological illustrations would be improved if some colour were added. There is a comprehensive bibliography. It is a stimulating book of great educational value, not only for students studying for higher degrees, but everyone interested in skeletal problems.—R. I. WILSON.