The section on diarrhoeal disease includes epidemiological studies from North Africa and reviews from European authors on rotavirus immunisation and the management of gastroenteritis, with particularly useful documentation of the beneficial effects of continuous feeding during acute diarrhoea. Accounts of the natural history of rheumatic fever in Kuwait, Libya and Iraq are set in the context of reviews of the increasing incidence of the disease in some parts of the world, with its varying clinical presentation in comparison with patients in temperate climates, there is little comment on management. The sections on meningitis comprise two chapters which highlight the disappointing reduction in mortality which has been seen over the last thirty years. A brief chapter on recent advances discusses antimicrobial therapy, particularly in the neonatal period. Parasitic disorders are discussed in individual chapters, these include hydatid disease, schistosomiasis and visceral leishmaniasis. There are more general chapters on immunocompetence and viral infections.

Most of the common and important infectious diseases are either preventable or treatable. Thus a key option is an emphasis on environmental hygiene and immunisation. This subject area is also reviewed together with a useful account of the reasons for immunisation failure. The book finishes with a discussion of antibiotic therapy, relating particularly to the role and use of aminoglycosides and co-trimoxazole. Although the book is primarily aimed at paediatricians working in Arab countries, infections remain a common problem in children all over the world and its contents will have relevance to child health workers everywhere.

M.J. Brueton
*Westminster Children's Hospital,
London SW1P 2NS.*

Rehabilitation in Rheumatology: the Team Approach, Anthony Clarke, Louise Allard and B. Braybrooks. Pp. 320, illustrated. Martin Dunitz, London, 1987. £19.95.

Do not let the title of this excellent book mislead you. Rather than a comprehensive account of the rehabilitation facilities available for patients with rheumatic disorders, this is a concise short text book of practical rheumatology. The authors begin by defining the size and scope of the problems of disability in the rheumatic diseases and there follow chapters on the presentation, diagnosis and management of these conditions which, of course, underpin the application of rehabilitation measures. The contributions of the individual members of the rehabilitation team are indicated throughout but it is quite clear who is the team captain. Accordingly the chapters on physiotherapy and occupational therapy are perhaps somewhat briefer than one would wish, indicating principles rather

than a more in-depth critical analysis of individual techniques which would have been useful in a book such as this. In contrast, drug treatment is more extensively covered, including useful specialist techniques such as epidural injections, guanethidine blocks for algodystrophy and phenol injections of motor points for the relief of spasticity. Finally, social aspects of disability are covered with useful appendices including the addresses of self help groups and disabled living centres. The text is well illustrated throughout with line drawings and excellent tables. Despite their necessarily small size most of the radiographs are useful although a few would have been improved by clearer labelling. The use of black and white photographs to illustrate subtle skin changes such as the heliotrope rash of dermatomyositis and the violaceous discolouration of the pinna in ochronosis were over-optimistic. Despite these minor criticisms this is a beautifully presented, relatively inexpensive rheumatology textbook, among the very best of its type. It will be invaluable to any general practice or hospital library and to all those who are involved in the treatment of rheumatic disorders.

Paul Wordsworth
*John Radcliffe Hospital,
Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU.*

Systemic Inflammatory Disease and the Eye, W.J. Dinning. Pp. xii + 247, illustrated. Butterworth Scientific, Guildford, 1987. £30.

This is a splendid little book and is highly recommended for ophthalmologists, general physicians, postgraduates and medical students. The author is an ophthalmologist who understands internal medicine so his text is the eye as a mirror of systemic inflammation. His topics include sarcoidosis, Behçet's disease, Wegener's granulomatosis, polyarteritis and other vasculitides, lupus erythematosus, the arthropathies, psoriasis and infections. The line drawings are helpful but some of the photographs are drab. In this day and age it is a pity that economy forces an author to use black and white photographs when colour photography lends itself so well to the retina and iris. MRCP candidates are shown ocular disorders in various stages of the examination so they are well advised to include this monograph during pre-examination revision. Physicians worldwide embroiled in AIDS derive great diagnostic help from the ophthalmoscope and this book will put them on the right tracks by interpreting the signs of ocular inflammation. Medical students will understand and enjoy ophthalmology if they turn to this book before it is too late.

D.G. James
*149 Harley Street,
London, W1N 1HG.*