

Roentgenologic Atlas of the Hand and Wrist in Systemic Disease. By Morrison E. KRICUN, M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Jack EDEIKEN, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Radiology, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 26×17.5 cm. Pp. xi+324, with many radiographs. Index. 1973. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Company. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. Price £9.

This atlas, produced by two distinguished American radiologists, emphasises the diagnostic value of a single radiograph of the hand, particularly in characterising systemic skeletal disorders. The first quarter of the book concerns congenital anomalies and dysplasias and is accompanied by a valuable table linking the abnormalities which may be observed to the multitude of generalised congenital dysplasias which have now been recognised. Metabolic diseases and neoplasms are profusely illustrated and a short but interesting section on arteriography is included.

The authors stress the role of the book as an atlas and have reduced the legends to a minimum. These legends are frequently somewhat laconic—presuming considerable knowledge on the part of the reader—and are sometimes rather uninspiring. The reader often feels that a little more descriptive text could have been included with considerable advantage.

A feature of particular value is the inclusion of a large number of references, many of which are of quite recent origin. The illustrations in general are fair and do show what the legends say they show. Inevitably some of the reproductions are open to criticism, but in rare conditions—of which the atlas contains many examples—beggars cannot be choosers.

The price of £9 reflects today's cost of living, but the atlas deserves a place in the libraries of radiologists, paediatricians, rheumatologists and interested orthopaedic surgeons.—R. O. MURRAY.

Röntgendiagnostik der Skeleterkrankungen. (Diseases of the Skeletal System [Roentgen Diagnosis].) Part 2. By G. BIERLING, E. BÜRGE, O. FISCHEDICK, H. HAAGE, K. RANNIGER, F. SOMMER and J.-W. WEISS. Edited by L. DIETHELM. Volume 5 in the series *Handbuch der Medizinischen Radiologie*. (Encyclopedia of Medical Radiology.) Edited by L. DIETHELM, O. OLSSON, F. STRNAD, H. VIETEN and A. ZUPPINGER. Pp. xiv+650, with 992 illustrations in 560 figures. Index. 1973. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. Price DM 420; U.S. \$133.20.

Practical orthopaedic surgery gives continuous evidence of the importance of the radiologist's efforts in offering a pictorial display with such quality that diagnosis and ensuing therapy can be carried out with acceptable accuracy. In many countries the unfortunate custom exists where the orthopaedist alone reads the x-rays, without any further cooperation with the radiologist, whose work merely becomes a piece of photography instead of meticulous radiological analysis. In other parts of the world it appears that for orthopaedic practice the radiologist is as important for the orthopaedic surgeon as the latter is for the radiologist. This in itself is an axiomatic circumstance, but a point worth bringing home more clearly, as has been done in the second part of the *Encyclopaedia of Medical Radiology*.

This volume is one of a series on the roentgen diagnosis of diseases of the skeletal system. In its more than 500 pages the volume covers four main topics, i.e., osteolytic syndromes, inflammatory conditions and infectious skeletal disease, Paget's disease and the use of arthrography. Each section is written by separate authors, a fact which has no bearing on the presentation, for each chapter appears as an individual entity without any relation to the other chapters. This makes the volume more of a handbook for reference work and a source of guiding principles in orthopaedic radiological diagnosis than a book for cursive perusal. As a handbook the excellence of this volume can hardly be surpassed. The German methodical presentation hardly leaves any scope for fallacies in systematisation, detailed analysis and meticulous recording of all possible syndromes, diseases, defects and aberrations. Moreover, it is noteworthy how painstakingly particular the authors have been to describe the normal appearance within each field.

The volume has seven authors, of whom only one is an orthopaedic surgeon, the remainder being radiologists. This in itself is surprising—and encouraging—as for every description of a radiological diagnosis a most precise and extensive account of the orthopaedic condition is given. As a matter of fact, after having finished reading this volume, the reader is left more with the impression of having concluded a handbook in orthopaedics than in radiology!

The illustrations, nearly a thousand, are on the whole of good quality, but a limitation in numbers would not diminish its value. This is especially true of the chapter on arthrography, where the illustrations are so overwhelming that reading becomes almost tedious. The print is on semi-glossy