to have been inflicted by a sharp instrument could usefully be stressed.

(2) Mention is made of the importance of soft-tissue injuries of the neck in causing headache immediately after injury (p. 17). The referred head pains associated with cervical spondylosis might well receive mention in the section on *Sequelae* (p. 72).

(3) The inclusion of a three-page essay on anosmia from the sufferer's point of view, whatever its literary merits, disturbs the balance of so short a monograph.

These are small points. No one who deals with casualties can afford to be without this book. It slips easily into the pocket of a white coat, whence it should frequently be withdrawn for study.

A. N. GUTHKELCH

Atmospheric Pollutants. Report of a W.H.O. Expert Committee (Pp. 18; 1s. 9d., \$0.30, Sw. Fr. 1). Geneva: (Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser., No. 271). 1964.

This short report summarizes the progress that has been made in air pollution control. It calls for the abolition of imprecise terms such as 'smog' and the standardization of nomenclature, units, and methods of measurement, though the dangers of oversimplification are stressed. Four levels of air quality are quoted:

Level I. Concentration and exposure time at or below which, according to present knowledge, neither direct nor indirect effects (including alteration of reflexes or of adaptive or protective reactions) have been observed.

Level II. Concentrations and exposure times at and above which there is likely to be irritation of the sensory organs, harmful effects on vegetation, visibility reduction, or other adverse effects on the environment.

Level III. Concentrations and exposure times at and above which there is likely to be impairment of vital physiological functions or changes that may lead to chronic diseases or shortening of life.

Level IV. Concentrations and exposure times at and above which there is likely to be acute illness or death in susceptible groups of the population.

International guides for concentrations of individual pollutants are to be prepared.

An improvement in the exchange of technical knowledge between countries is recommended and also further research. In particular further work is required to develop methods for removing sulphur from fuel and sulphur dioxide from flue gases; for the low cost production of smokeless fuels; to study meteorological conditions associated with air pollution; and to evaluate the economic consequences of air pollution and its control.

C. H. WOOD

Textbook of the Rheumatic Diseases. 3rd ed. Ed. W. S. C. Copeman. (Pp. 831; illustrated; £6 10s.) Edinburgh and London: Livingstone. 1964.

Compared with its predecessor, the third edition of Dr. Copeman's textbook has grown by 80 pages and half a pound in weight. The use of a new smaller but clearer type has allowed more words to the printed page, yet good spacing and a pleasing appearance have been preserved. Thus the physical growth, which is in any

case moderate for a book of this calibre appearing after a nine years' interval, considerably underestimates the increase in the knowledge gathered within.

Several chapters have been comprehensively rewritten by new authors, and there are seven entirely new chapters. Each chapter is followed by its own references, and there is a good index. Reproductions of radiographs are mostly good, though a few could be discarded without loss.

In a book of this size one may always find trifles to quibble over. If Pleonosteosis merits a paragraph, do not Paget's disease or the changes of acromegaly or ochronosis deserve one also? Should one really advise giving oral penicillin as a protection against masked infection to children receiving high or prolonged dosage of steroids?

This new edition comes at an appropriate time when much of the extensive study on the nature and treatment of rheumatic diseases, which began soon after the war, has been reported and fallen into a reasonable perspective. The reader can therefore feel confident that the views expressed will be shared by most rheumatologists, and the book thus represents a particularly valuable guide to the best current practice.

The editor, believing that 'the consultant in clinical rheumatology now needs, in addition to a full training in general medicine, a considerable . . . knowledge within many other specialist branches' has included new chapters on such diverse but highly relevant fields as epidemiology, auto-immunity and genetics, and clinical trials. This breadth of approach greatly enhances the book's value as a comprehensive source of reference, and it ought to be at the elbow of all who deal with rheumatic patients. This latest edition has added lustre to the high reputation of its predecessors, and Dr. Copeman and his team deserve warmest congratulations.

M. R. JEFFREY

An Outline of Psychiatry for Students and Practitioners. By F. J. Fish. (Pp. 270; 32s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1964.

The last two years have brought out a veritable rash of psychiatric textbooks, none of which, however, has changed the face of psychiatry very much, except perhaps that they have made it look as if it had the measles. The metaphor can be taken further: one spot looks remarkably like the other. Professor Fish's book, as the foreword by Professor Carstairs points out, is based on his experience in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching of many years, and to those many who will in future have the benefit of his guidance into the subject this book will be of very great help. The foreword described the book as 'dogmatic' at least in parts; if by dogmatic one means adherence to a principle in the approach to every clinical problem, then this book is nothing less than dogmatic. Certainly the book is didactic even to the point of oversimplification; this sacrifice however appears to be made deliberately for the purpose of clarity. Dogma is nowhere to be found. The author describes his outlook as 'Neo-Meyerian', by which he means an avoidance of any kind of 'school' approach, and in this he has succeeded. It has often been said before that present-day psychiatric knowledge is such that any attempt to unify the subject