Back" (which, as he so rightly says, commonly occurs in the inadequate individual) but the essay is superficial and rather sketchy. It should have been twice as long as it is to let the author develop his opinions for our benefit. The same sketchiness is strikingly illustrated by a contribution with the inviting title of "The Industrial Back—A Clinical Study", in which a general review of the problem and accounts of the mechanism of back injury, of "anatomic diagnosis", "roentgenograms", examination and treatment occupy only three pages.

The second section deals with advanced orthopaedic problems in a stimulating and interesting manner. Its contents are, however, well outside the field of industry.

It is only fair to say that though this issue has much for the orthopaedic surgeon and little for the industrial medical officer, the proposed twelfth issue in this series, which promises to deal with rehabilitation, may well be of interest and importance in industry.

D. LL. GRIFFITHS

Dictionary of Organic Compounds. 4 vols. Edited by Prof. Sir Ian Heilbron and H. M. Bunbury. (£28 the set; £7 10s. 0d. per volume.) London: Eyre and Spottiswoode. 1955.

This dictionary was first published in three volumes between October, 1934, and December, 1937, and has an established place in the libraries of chemistry departments. The new edition has been completely revised and brought up to date to the end of 1950 (and results quoted till early 1953) by a number of distinguished organic chemists, and is indeed a monumental work comprising 3,031 pages in all. Over 2,500 compounds appear for the first time as principal entries.

The constitution and physical and chemical properties of the principal carbon compounds and their derivatives, together with the relevant references to the literature, are concisely presented in alphabetical order, and all the data are readily accessible with abundant cross references. The Editors have set out to provide information on the many new organic compounds, both natural and synthetic, which have come into prominence in recent years as the result of the rapid expansion in all branches of chemistry and in the field of biochemistry. Data on each compound include its sources, physical properties, chemical properties (typical reactions, analytical tests) with derivatives described under separate sub-headings.

In regard to its use by workers in the field of industrial medicine and toxicology, two minor aspects of presentation may appear confusing. The continual employment of the letters d and l to designate optically active compounds, rather than the modern connotations D, L, +, - , could cause confusion in the minds of readers not familiar with isomers of sugars and amino-acids. Also, where a number of isomers obtain for one molecular formula, the first member only is described. This leaves gaps in information on compounds of biochemical interest, e.g., porphyrins, haems, and bile pigments, for which knowledge of isomer type has important implications in the industrial medical field.

These minor criticisms apart, it is obvious that this dictionary represents a successful up-to-date attempt to

cover in reasonable compass the whole field of carbon compounds. As such it will be invaluable to libraries of chemistry departments and research institutions to provide a repository of fundamental knowledge available not only to chemists but to specialists in such other fields as industrial medicine.

J. E. KENCH

Textbook of Rheumatic Diseases, 2nd ed. Edited by W. S. C. Copeman. (Pp. viii + 754; 464 figures. 52s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1955.

Since its introduction in 1948 this book has come to be accepted as the standard work on rheumatic disease in this country and has earned world-wide recognition. Though it is only seven years since the appearance of the first edition, the introduction of steroid therapy just after the initial publication has necessitated much rewriting and some rearrangement of the earlier chapters. A new chapter on the adrenal hormones has been added, and this gives a short but useful review of this side of the problem. Much information on the use of cortisone and A.C.T.H. has also been included in the chapters on rheumatic fever, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, and other rheumatic diseases. Two chapters on pain have been merged and form a most useful introduction to the problems of skeletal symptomatology as well as a valuable source of reference to the segmental distribution of deep pain. In the chapter on rheumatic fever both the old salicylate and the newer hormone methods of treatment are critically considered, and indeed throughout the book a cautious attitude is adopted towards the new methods of treatment and affords a valuable corrective to current enthusiasm. In the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis the importance of general and local rest to joints combined with maintenance of muscular power and optimal joint posture is rightly stressed. It may be questioned whether the advice to withhold chrysotherapy in the first few months of treatment is altogether in the best interests of the patient as it is in this stage that adequate suppression of the process would appear most likely to be beneficial. No reason is given for recommending the relatively toxic aqueous solution of sodium aurothiomalate, and the question of high or low dosage of gold is not discussed, only low doses being recommended. The value of other methods of treatment is critically reviewed and a well balanced account of the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis is provided.

There is a useful chapter on the rarer arthritic syndromes which will delight the collector of eponyms, and there are excellent short chapters on radiology and radiotherapy. The chapters on physiotherapy give a useful account of the methods in current use and at the same time avoid the excessive claims sometimes made for this type of treatment.

Rheumatism in industry is considered very briefly. Following a discussion of the toll of rheumatism as a whole in the employed population, reference is made to the high prevalence rate in certain specific occupations—steel, mining, and transport. The importance of cooperation between industrial medical officers, employers,