a very practical approach based on 30 years of experience. In the introduction he comments, "Therapeutic aggressiveness must be tempered by the potential of the therapy used to cause undesirable results." Throughout the text Dr. Kantor provides important points about adverse effects and laboratory monitoring. The manual is worth purchasing if the primary care clinician wants a "memory-jogger" concerning the medical management of the arthritides.

Carol A. LaCroix, M.D.
The Reading Hospital and Medical Center
Reading, PA


Outstanding Broadway plays fill theaters for many years. Conn's Current Therapy entered the medical stage in 1949 and with this edition answers the curtain call for the 44th year. This longevity indicates a dedicated audience of readers who return to a familiar text to find useful medical information.

This edition updates all of the 280 topics reviewed. The chapters remain concise and readable, and revisions address changes in therapy that have occurred since the last publication. The text is arranged in broad sections that parallel the traditional curriculum in internal medicine. Particularly strong sections exist for infectious disease, cardiology, hematology, and pulmonary medicine.

For quick review family physicians will find the internal medicine sections of Conn's Current Therapy more useful than most internal medicine texts. Other sections provide limited help to most generalists, because coverage of musculoskeletal disorders, pediatrics, psychiatry, and obstetrics and gynecology are not comprehensive. The section on dermatology contains no pictures, which diminishes its value.

The long-term success of Conn's Current Therapy underscores that this text has found a niche in the practitioner's library. The editor and authors meet the goal of "providing the practicing physician with a concise, practical reference that includes the most recent advances in therapy." Family physicians whose practices heavily emphasize internal medicine will find this book a true friend, while others can always use the text for a quick review of common medical problems.

Karl B. Fields, M.D.
Greensboro, NC


This review of drug therapy in rheumatic disease is thoughtful and eminently readable. The intention of this book is to provide information on the mechanism of actions and the use of different drugs in rheumatic disorders. My only reservation is that it lacks a section on osteoporosis management and treatment.

Essentially, the handbook is a practical guide for the busy primary care physician. Because the content of the text is well presented and relevant to family practice, it provides an efficient tool through which physicians can quickly review the treatment modalities for rheumatic disease. For the most part, the information appears to be up to date and well