

reading about human babies and not moths.

*Understanding Rheumatism* is an apt and useful title for a well written and useful book. The introduction warns the reader adequately not only of the loose connotation of "Rheumatism" as popularly used but also of the very definite meaning of the word in (say) acute rheumatism. The author deals, *seriatim*, with acute rheumatism, gout, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, spondylitis and, for good measure, includes in "Spinal Disorders" the displaced disc, lumbago and sciatica. Under "Miscellaneous Rheumatic Disorders" he deals with wry-neck and frozen shoulder *inter alia*.

In a book of 160 pages exactly half is occupied by what, to the patient, is even more important than understanding rheumatism and that is the relief of pain and treatment generally. The chapter on physiotherapy and methods of home treatment, exercises and simple splints is excellent. The account of surgical treatment informs but does not alarm, and the concluding chapters on the social services and gadgets for the disabled will prove most helpful. There are numerous and clear illustrations, chiefly of gadgets and how to make and use them, and an adequate index. It would be invidious to look for faults in this good book whose virtues far outweigh any minor criticisms which could be made. It will prove really helpful not only to the sufferer but equally to those who have the care of the case.

**European seminar on child health and the school.** Distributed by the Regional Office for Europe. Copenhagen. World Health Organization. 1965. Pp. vi + 82.

This is a report of a seminar held under the auspices of W.H.O. and attended by school medical officers and other experts from 24 western nations. A very wide range of facts were discussed ranging from the physical and emotional stresses on the child at school entry to preparation for leaving school and taking up employment.

The training and duties of school doctors and nurses are considered and so is the purpose and frequency of routine examinations. Discussions took place on the relationship between the school and the family and the place of the school in the community, and there is an interesting section on the proper content of health education that can be undertaken at various stages of a school career.

Despite the fact that no family doctor appears to have attended this seminar, the importance of co-operation with the home doctor of children is repeatedly stressed. There is much good, sound common sense in this booklet and an excellent review of modern thought on the purpose of a school health service is presented. This booklet should be of interest to all general practitioners and of particular value to all who combine school medical work—in the public or private field—with their practice. It is worthy of general publication and it seems a pity that only a limited number of copies is available on application to W.H.O. Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen.