BOOK REVIEWS

The Parotid Gland in Subjects with and without Rheumatoid Arthritis. By SUNE ERICSON. 1968. *Acta Radiologica*: Suppl. 275. Pp. 167, 8 figs. Stockholm.

This supplement is based on a combined radiological and functional study of the parotid gland in 92 patients with rheumatoid arthritis compared with 92 control subjects. The author first established in a group of fifteen patients with xerostomia that there is a high degree of correlation between the radiological alterations and the histological changes associated with this condition. On the basis of this finding the radiological changes are accepted as indicators of pathological change in the gland. A comparison of the findings in the two groups revealed a highly significant increase of structural abnormality in the parotid of the rheumatoid subjects.

The function of the gland was assessed by measuring the volume of secretion at rest and in response to various stimuli. These studies also revealed a significant impairment in the rheumatoid individuals especially when subject to salivary stimulation. Finally, by means of multiple regression analysis, the effect of some fifty variables upon the volume of the parotid secretion was determined. This revealed that the chief factor accounting for the difference in secretion rate between the rheumatoid and control groups is the anatomical stage of the arthritis. An appendix outlines the statistical methods used.

This is a beautifully illustrated study of a somewhat neglected aspect of rheumatoid disease, and is strongly recommended.

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deals with the various serological reactions in the rheumatic diseases. The four chapters cover history and methodology, the rheumatoid factors and investigations into the nature and reactions of their inhibitors, and the antinuclear factor. As is only to be expected from Professors Tichy and Seidel, considerable attention has been devoted to all aspects of serology including an impressive international bibliography divided into four separate lists. In addition, there is a table of contents and an addendum with illustrated plates. The extensive bibliography, in turn, led to the use of a modified Harvard notation in order to save space in the text. Authors are still listed alphabetically, but have also been designated by numbers which are used in the text with, or without, the name of the author(s). Inevitably, with the use of numbers, errors are bound to creep in, e.g. on p. 91 Milgrom *et al.* (347) instead of (374); on p. 87 Christian (480) instead of (84); on p. 87 Finkelstein *et al.* (57) instead of (157); on p. 175 Levine *et al.* (170) instead of (171). These errors are easily detected because the name of the author(s) has been mentioned in the text, but where numbers alone are used the task is more difficult. This, of course, is but a minor criticism which will not detract from the value of the book to the pathologist. The clinician, too, will find that the relation of clinical aspects to serology has a fascination of its own.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

Beiträge zur Rheumatologie. Vol. XII, edited by H. TICHY and K. SEIDEL. 1967. Pp. 194, 13 figs. Veb. Verlag Volk und Gesundheit, Jena, E. Germany.

The twelfth volume of the *Beiträge* (194 pages)

Osteo-arthritis and Body Measurements. United States Public Health Service, National Center for Health Statistics, Series 11, No. 29. Pp. 37, 8 figs, 38 tables, 15 refs. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. (35 cts.).