

BOOK REVIEWS

Les Collagénoses. Rapports présentés au XXXIe Congrès Français de Médecine, Paris, 1957. Pp. 246, 10 figs. Masson, Paris. (2,400 Fr. frs; 45s.)

The papers read at the 31st French Congress of Medicine have been grouped into three volumes, the first of which is devoted to the collagen diseases. In discussing the concept of "collagen disease", Delarue, Mignot, and Civatte point out that Klemperer has recently objected to the substitution of terms such as "connective tissue disease" or "mesenchymal disease" since these expressions tend to suggest a cellular rather than an intercellular pathology. The expression "collagen disease" is itself so all-embracing that it may include a very large number of conditions, although, in practice, the clinician has only about four of them in mind. The biology and pathology of collagen is dealt with at some length by Delaunay and Brazin, and dermatological lesions by Dupont, Fiévez, and van Caneghem. Finally, the alleged visceral manifestations of collagen diseases are unravelled by Turiaf, Marland, and Moreau.

The various contributors cover virtually all that is known about the so-called collagen diseases. The bibliography offered to the reader is on a generous scale, but since this volume is likely to be used as a work of reference it is unfortunate that a better method was not used for presenting it.

DAVID PREISKEL

Klinische Rheumatologie. By Werner Moll. 1957. Pp. 454, 63 figs, 2 col. illus. Karger, Basel. (Sw. frs 79; £6 10s.)

This is an important textbook on clinical rheumatology in the German language. As Prof. de Sèze remarks in the Preface, the author has treated rheumatology not as a subject in itself but as part of the wider field of general medicine. About 66 pages (of a total of over 400) are devoted to terminology, classification, osteology, and methods of diagnosis and treatment. The same care has been taken in introducing various conditions which merit chapters of their own and such attention to detail often imparts information not readily found in many textbooks on rheumatology as, for example, a list of

muscles involved in carrying out complex movements of the shoulder. Somewhat surprisingly, a separate chapter is devoted to the "fibrositis syndrome"; this is a generic term intended to include such conditions as the painful shoulder and "tennis elbow", but attempts to regard it as an entity with its own aetiology and pathology appear to be half-hearted, as they should be. Perhaps the term "non-articular rheumatism" is a happier choice.

In general, one does not expect to find humour in a book on the rheumatic diseases, but the author's wit if he has any will be revealed in the chapter on gout. In this we are not disappointed; the delightful fable of Lafontaine ("The Gout and the Spider", written in 1668) and other tit-bits help to lighten the reader's burden in grappling with the small, closely set, print which has resulted from compressing a mass of detail into a book of moderate proportions.

The last section contains photographs, x rays, and colour-plates—all of excellent quality. It is fascinating to watch the gradual development of rheumatoid arthritis in hands and feet and to correlate naked-eye appearances with the accompanying x-ray photographs.

The book is provided with a table of contents, an index, and an ample list of references, the last of which would look better if recorded by the Harvard system. Although the book has obvious uses as a work of reference, its main appeal lies in the illustrated section.

DAVID PREISKEL

Patología de las Pequeñas Articulaciones Intervertebrales (The Pathology of Diseases of the Intervertebral Joints). By J. M. Vilaseca and P. Barceló. 2nd edition, 1958. Pp. 404, 231 illus. Salvat Editores S.A., Barcelona. (495 pesetas; £3 10s.)

This is a beautifully produced book, profusely illustrated with excellent reproductions of x rays. The anatomy and pathology, and especially the technique and interpretation of the radiology of arthritis of the spine are described, and its differential diagnosis is discussed. Printed in Spanish, it is recommended for all advanced students of rheumatology.

G. D. KERSLEY

SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI REUMATOLOGIA

Fifth Rome Rheumatology Day, 1958

This was organized by the Laziale-Abruzzi Section of the Society, whose president is Prof. T. Lucherini, and was under the chairmanship of Prof. L. Villa, of the Milan Medical Clinic. The following principal papers were presented:

PROF. F. DELBARRE (*Paris*): Current views on gout, its pathogenesis and treatment.

PROF. F. COSTE (*Paris*): Two cases of an unusual combination of disorders—carpal tunnel syndrome,

chronic stationary polyarthritis, and photodermic manifestations.

DR. G. COSTA-BERTANI (*Buenos Aires*): "Barré-Lieou syndrome."

PROF. E. GREPPI (*Florence*) read a challenging paper on "Rheumatic Cephalgias."

These papers were followed by lively discussions and a variety of other interesting contributions, of which 29 figured in the programme.



Klinische Rheumatologie

David Preiskel

Ann Rheum Dis 1958 17: 245

doi: 10.1136/ard.17.2.245-b

Updated information and services can be found at:
<http://ard.bmj.com/content/17/2/245.2.citation>

Email alerting service

These include:

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
<http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions>

To order reprints go to:
<http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform>

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
<http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/>