

## BOOK REVIEWS

“Salicylates.” An International Symposium sponsored by the E.R.C. 1962.

This book reports the proceedings of an International Symposium on “Salicylates”, held in London in September, 1962, and sponsored by the Empire Rheumatism Council with the support of the Nicholas Research Institute.

Introductory papers on the history of salicylates are followed by a series of communications dealing with their absorption, distribution, excretion, and metabolic effects. Subsequent sections are concerned with the effects of salicylates on inflammation, with their action on epithelial surfaces (particularly those of the gastrointestinal tract), and with their toxicity. As all the papers are written by experts the general reader may find some of them difficult to follow; the short summary at the end of each paper is therefore of considerable value.

This book will be of interest to workers in many fields and the hopes of the Chairman, Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, that it may serve as an up-to-date bibliographical review of the topics discussed would seem to be fully justified. There are, of course, areas of the subject unexplored, for that is in the nature of symposia, but the large part that is covered is excellent value.

E. D. SEVER.

**Beitrag zur Rheumatologie.** Vol. 7 (1963). Edited by PROF. DR. MED. HANS TICHY. Pp. 176, 108 figs. Veb Verlag Volk und Gesundheit, Berlin. (D.M. 35.50.)

Vol. 7 like its predecessors, is edited by the indefatigable Prof. Tichy. Nearly half its pages, totalling 176, are devoted to rheumatic carditis and, in particular, to mitral stenosis and its operative treatment. Though the detailed operative techniques on the heart will prove of little interest to the rheumatologist, the surgery of bones, joints, and soft tissues is a revelation of what can be done to salvage damaged joints and limbs, often by relatively minor procedures, *e.g.* tenotomy of sartorius and tensor fasciae latae for flexion-contracture of the hip (but “psoas release” is not mentioned).

The format is excellent and the volume is provided with an adequate alphabetical index and a voluminous bibliography.

DAVID PREISKEL.

**Orthopaedic Appliances. The Principles and Practice of Brace Construction.** By HENRY H. JORDAN, M.D. 2nd ed., 1963. Pp. 201, 154 figs, index. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. (\$16.50).

This book opens with some remarkable photographs of a young man with severe muscular dystrophy who, with the aid of an almost complete exoskeleton of braces, is able to lead a nearly normal life. Those who have been baffled by the problem of trying to get even simple braces and appliances made for arthritic patients will be filled with awe at the science and craftsmanship of the surgeon and brace-maker concerned. Dr. Jordan points out that orthopaedic surgeons have, as a group, tended to neglect the techniques of brace-making and splinting for the more direct approach of operative surgery, thus delegating to the appliance-maker the responsibility for braces. The appliance-maker in his turn may not necessarily understand the principles of the anatomy and function of the part he is bracing. Dr. Jordan sets out to teach us these principles and, although this excellent book is addressed to orthopaedic surgeons, much of it is of interest to rheumatologists, since Dr. Jordan is perhaps best known for his meticulous and successful use of braces for the correction of deformity and functional rehabilitation of haemophilic joints. The first chapter contains a detailed account of plaster-of-paris technique, emphasizing the methods for making sure that casts used as models for braces should reflect the corrected position, not the deformity. The special hinges needed to correct posterior subluxation in flexion contractures of the knee are clearly illustrated. In other parts of the book he describes the braces for the upper limb and spine and the use of the newer materials—plastic and plastic foams, “velcro”, etc. The last chapter deals with the use of *x*-ray control to ensure that the brace fits and is doing its job. Dr. Jordan emphasizes that radiological examination of this sort must be done with the patient standing and/or sitting, so that the fit during actual weight-bearing is checked, and that for hinged braces it is essential to ensure that the axis of the hinge be aligned with the axis of the joint under *x*-ray control in order to avoid damaging stresses during use of the joint.

A. ST. J. DIXON.

## CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF RHEUMATOLOGY

### *II Congress, Piešťany, 1964*

The Second Congress will be held from September 29 to October 2, 1964. Special subjects are Ankylosing Spondylitis, Collagen Diseases, and Steroid Therapy. Free papers are also invited. Titles of papers should be sent in by *April 15* and applications for participation by

June 15, 1964, to:

The Congress Secretariat,

Na Slupi 4,

Praha 2, Czechoslovakia.