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BOOK REVIEW

Arthritis and Rheumatism. By W. S. C. COPEMAN (1967). Pp. 128, 6 figs. Evans Brothers, London. (Paperback 6s., boards 12s. 6d.).

The eye-catching cover of this latest addition to the ranks of books about the rheumatic disorders for lay consumption beckons the reader to a lively and highly readable text. As would be expected from Dr. Copeman the exposition of facts, necessarily sombre in places, is liberally seasoned with well-selected historical allusions. The drawings are based on material which has appeared in the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council's handbook. A successful work of this kind must be a very personal production and it is no criticism that this one expresses some views with which other rheumatologists might differ. Dr. Copeman has not evaded the hurdles which lie in the track of an author writing for an unknown patient or healthy enquirer. Where a disease carries a threat to life or to function he gives the facts frankly but tries to balance these by emphasizing what early treatment can offer. A general introduction precedes chapters on individual diseases and these are followed by descriptions of gadgets and helps in home and garden, and a useful appendix listing sources of informative literature or self-help devices and the location of treatment centres. The Author is to be congratulated on the successful execution of a difficult task.

A. G. S. HILL

NOTES

EDITORIAL CHANGES

The *Annals* is fortunate in having suffered very few changes in its editorial staff since it appeared in its present form 24 years ago. During 1968, however, it faces two heavy losses by the retirement of Dr. Oswald Savage, the distinguished and hard-working Deputy Editor (since 1951), and of Dr. George Kersley, who first joined the Editorial Board 23 years ago, and was himself for a time joint Deputy Editor under the previous regime.

Both have given of their best over the years—and that as their colleagues well know is *very* good. Perhaps one of the results of their endeavours is evidenced in concrete form by the progressive rise in circulation figures. During the past year alone permanent subscriptions have increased by several hundred, so bringing our total circulation throughout the world—including a sizeable contribution from the U.S.S.R.—to our all-time record.

Both Dr. Savage and Dr. Kersley have played leading parts as "founding fathers" of the specialty of rheumatology. Both are known as great clinicians who have left their mark in London and Bath respectively on hospital organization and the care and treatment of patients. They have also made important contributions to the practical and academic study of the subject. Both have served as President of the Heberden Society and have also held high office in the Ligue Européenne contre le Rhumatisme. The Editorial Committee of this Journal will miss their advice and fruitful companionship, but look forward to retaining their interest and perhaps publishing the results of their continued research and experience for many years to come.

W.S.C.C.

RHEUMATOLOGY UNIT AT OXFORD

By agreement between the Nuffield Departments of Medicine (Prof. Paul Beeson) and of Orthopaedic Surgery (Prof. Robert Duthie), a Rheumatology Unit containing 25 beds and 3,600 square feet of research laboratory space has been established in the Orthopaedic Centre at Headington, Oxford. The Regional Board proposes to contribute financially and to allot Out-patient Sessions to the Director, who will also be granted the status of University Reader in the Department of Medicine. The first Director is to be Dr. A. M. Denman.