CORRESPONDENCE

Request for Reprints of Articles on Stress and the Adaptive Hormones

The Editors wish to commend the following letter from Professor Selye and his co-editor of the Annual Reports on Stress. Professor Selye is well known to members of the Heberden Society through his Heberden Oration in 1950 and his important research work on stress in the aetiology and pathology of rheumatoid disease. These Annual Reports are of great interest and value and deserve the careful study and support of all workers in rheumatology.

To the Editors of the *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*.

DEAR SIRS,—In perusing the current literature with which your Journal is concerned, we note that an ever increasing number of articles deal with problems pertaining to research on "stress" and the so-called "adaptive hormones" (ACTH, STH, corticoids, adrenergic substances, etc.).

We are writing you because, in our opinion, the success of research in this complex and rapidly developing field largely depends upon the prompt availability and evaluation of relevant publications, a task for which we should like to solicit the assistance of your readers.

In 1950, our Institute initiated the publication of a series of reference volumes entitled "Annual Reports on Stress" (Acta Medical Publishers, Montreal) in which the entire current world literature (usually between 2,000 and 4,000 publications) is surveyed every year. Up to now, we have had to compile the pertinent literature partly from medical periodicals, monographs, and abstract

journals, and partly from reprints sent to us by the authors themselves. Of all these, reprints have proved to be the best source of data which we felt deserved prompt attention in our annual reports. Hence, in the past, we have sent out several thousand individual reprint requests to authors whom we knew to be currently engaged in research on stress and allied topics. Even this procedure did not give us the wide coverage which would be desirable, because it is materially impossible to contact all these authors individually and it often takes too much time to get the requested reprints.

It is evident that in order to insure prompt inclusion of publications in the annual reports, these surveys must develop into a co-operative effort between the authors of original papers and the reviewers. This co-operation has been greatly enhanced of late by the publication of announcements, in several medical journals, encouraging investigators interested in stress research to send us their reprints for this purpose as soon as they become available.

We should be grateful if, by the publication of this note, you would bring this problem to the attention of your readers.

We are, Gentlemen,

Very sincerely yours,

HANS SELYE,
ALEXANDER HORAVA.

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and Surgery,
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January 27, 1953.*

BOOK REVIEWS

Rheumatische Erkrankungen. Edited by M. Hochrein. 1952. Pp. 416, 121 illus. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart. (D.M. 36; 64s.)

This comprehensive text-book contains contributions by many well-known German workers. In a work of this nature, overlap is inevitable and, to the student, sometimes confusing. Thus, in Hochrein's excellent chapter on rheumatic heart disease (Chapter 9), the reader is introduced to the orthodox treatment of this condition, not excluding the use of hormones. In Chapter 13, however, Grote brings evidence to show that diet is the important factor in the prevention of cardiac damage. The unsatisfactory nature of the nomenclatures now in use is reflected in the attempt to evolve a new classification of the rheumatic diseases which is probably more exact but, at the same time, more cumbersome; "acute genuine rheumatism" becomes synonymous with rheumatic fever and

"primary chronic genuine rheumatism" with rheumatoid arthritis. This book differs from Anglo-American publications in its emphasis on certain theories and therapies which have seen better days in the West and on others which have not yet achieved recognition. Pyramidon (amido-pyrimin) is used in a wide variety of conditions; vaccines, both stock and autogenous, parade through the pages in ever-increasing doses without any attempt being made to explain why the body should react against dead organisms when it fails to do so against live ones; bee-venom, histamine ionization, and spa treatment are all used for sciatica (pp. 142-44), but remedial exercises for the lumbar spine are not mentioned. In a discussion on lumbago (p. 154), it is stated that if it is "one-sided it may lead to scoliosis with convexity towards the sound side", and Chapter 19 tells us that "peri-arthritis humero-scapularis" is due to faulty posture of the dorsal spine and