BOOK REVIEWS

Bréviaire de rhumatologie à l'usage du praticien. Par les Médecins du Service de Rhumatologie du Centre Viggo-Petersen et S. de Sèze. 1958. Pp. 370, 178 figs. Expansion Scientifique, Paris. (4,000 Fr. frs.)

This synopsis is intended for the general practitioner who is faced with a rheumatological problem. Consequently, the authors have omitted non-essentials, as far as possible, and concentrated on the two indispensables—diagnosis and treatment. Information is imparted by means of question and answer, and by looking up the relevant chapter the reader may find the solution to his problem. From this it must be concluded that the authors have compiled a variation of "Any Questions?"; the text is well illustrated with photographs, diagrams, and x-ray films, and abounds in useful information and clinical observations which merit respect, though not necessarily always full agreement. For example, it may not be realized that partial or complete rupture of the supraspinatus tendon is found in 10 to 15 per cent. of all autopsies; that this incidence rises to 70 per cent. in those who have passed the psalmist's span of life; that fraying of the long head of biceps is present in 20 to 50 per cent. of persons over the age of 70, and that correlation with symptoms during life indicates that such lesions can be silent or latent; that phenylbutazone is the drug of choice in ankylosing spondylitis and that its administration in the early stages will arrest the disease—and so on and so forth. Incidentally, the term "ankylosing spondylitis" is once more under attack by the authors on the grounds that it does not incorporate the salient feature of the disease (involvement of the sacro-iliac joints), and arouses despair in the patient by its suggestion of inevitable invalidism. They suggest instead the use of the term *pelvi-spondylite rhumatismale*—which all goes to show that the practice of pouring new wine into old bottles has lost none of its attractions.

The quality of printing and of paper is above reproach. There are two special features which are worthy of mention—a separate chapter on bone pathology, which

is of great interest, and an ample supplement in which the pharmaceutical houses and purveyors of orthopaedic appliances have found full scope for their talents. A table of contents is provided but no index. The volume will prove to be of interest both to general practitioners and to rheumatologists, but its price is rather high by British standards.

DAVID PREISKEL.

Manual of Rheumatology. By J. Houli. 1958. Pp. 157, 57 figs. Livraria Athenell S.A., Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

This book may be described as a simple, systematic study of the rheumatic diseases. For the specialist everything in it is familiar, but for the student and the general practitioner it offers a comprehensive survey of the "rheumatic problem". The material, especially the section on treatment, is well up-to-date. There are 57 useful photographic reproductions and some interesting statistical data. Although rheumatism, in its various forms, is supposed to be commoner in the temperate climates, it is quite obvious from the text that it presents a considerable problem in South America.

PAUL B. WOOLLEY.

The Synovial Fluid. By J. Houli. 1958. Pp. 204, illustrated. Livraria Athenell, S.A., Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

It is difficult to imagine a more specialized text than this one—187 pages devoted almost solely to the study of synovial fluid. Needless to say this book has been written for the specialist and it contains all, and even more, that he need ever know about the lubricating liquid. The author believes that joint aspiration should be carried out as a routine and the fluid examined in the same manner as a haematologist would do a blood-count. Samplings of fluid can give some indication as to the value of any treatment being carried out.

There are ample illustrations and tables and the bibliography can be described as complete.

PAUL B. WOOLLEY.

CANADIAN RHEUMATISM ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting, 1958

At the annual meeting of the Canadian Rheumatism Association, held at Vancouver, B.C., the scientific session comprised eleven papers dealing with original reports, reviews, and clinical observations.

Dr. Russel L. Cecil and Dr. A. Almon Fletcher, and Mr. J. A. Gairdner, a Toronto philanthropist, were elected honorary members of the Association.

Dr. John F. L. Woodbury (*Halifax*) is the new President, and other incoming members of the executive committee are Dr. J. Bruce Frain, first vice-president; Dr. Metro Ogryzlo, second vice-president; Dr. de Guise Vaillancourt, secretary; Dr. John R. Martin, treasurer; Dr. Joseph A. Blais and Dr. H. Garfield Kelly.

The Canadian Rheumatism Association has