

value of such stimulating exchanges. This volume can, however, be unreservedly recommended. Many of the contributors, such as McQuarrie, Duckett Jones, G. E. Murphy, Ann Kuttner, M. J. Shapiro, and F. F. Schwentker, have already made substantial advances in our knowledge of rheumatic fever, and other writers whose names are unknown to the reviewer here make impressive contributions.

It is more than twenty years now since Alison Glover wrote of rheumatic fever as an obsolescent disease, and it is to his credit that time has proved his hopeful forecast false. For rheumatic fever is still an implacable and unconquered enemy of mankind. During the last six months there has been a marked recrudescence of acute rheumatism in children in areas where the disease has been quiescent for two or three years; and it should be continuously remembered that as many hearts are being quietly crippled by one insidious attack as are damaged by overt rheumatism. These papers not only deal with the natural history, prophylaxis, and treatment of acute rheumatism; their especial value lies in their recognition

that it is only by the elucidation of the peculiarities of the individual host that full understanding will be achieved.

Murphy gives a masterly review of the histopathology of rheumatic fever and advances the view that the Aschoff bodies are formed from the damaged myocardial fibres. There is a useful paper by H. L. Hodes on non-rheumatic myocarditis, which emphasizes the non-progressive nature of this cardiac damage compared with that of rheumatic fever. Several papers discuss the acute-phase reactions, including the measurement of hyaluronidase inhibitor, C-reactive proteins, and antibody responses, and demonstrate that, while such tests are of increasing value, they are not yet of specific diagnostic quality. Dorfman contributes an enlightening paper on the biochemistry of connective tissue and rheumatic fever. It was news to the reviewer that the only mammalian organ which has been proved to contain hyaluronidase is the testis. Well-balanced surveys by Rammelkamp on the prevention of rheumatic fever and by Shapiro on its management conclude an admirable volume.

DOUGLAS HUBBLE.

NEW YORK RHEUMATISM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, 1953

The Annual Meeting of the New York Rheumatism Association was held at the Cornell University Medical College, New York, on April 8, 1953. Dr. Charles Ragan presided, and the following papers were given:

Relationship of Sensitized Sheep Cell Reaction to Rheumatoid Arthritis. By Ronald W. Lamont-Havers (*Presbyterian Hospital*).

Long-Term Therapy of Rheumatoid Arthritis with PABA and Cortisone. By Leon L. Wiesel and A. Sidney Barrit (*Brooklyn Hospital*).

Altered Hepatic Function in Rheumatoid Arthritis; Effect of Butazolidin Therapy. By Jack R. Dordick and Hyman Bakst (*Beth Israel Hospital*).

Chordotomy in the Treatment of Osteo-Arthritis of the Hip. By Byron Stookey (*Neurological Institute*).

Absorptive Arthropathy. By Murray Silver and Otto Steinbrocker (*Hospital for Joint Diseases*).

Dissemination of Chronic Discoid Lupus Erythematosus. By Jerome Simson (*Third (New York University) Division, Bellevue Hospital*).

The following officers and executive committee members were elected for 1953-54:

<i>President:</i>	Robert M. Lintz
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Jed H. Irvine
<i>Secretary-Treasurer:</i>	Bernard Rogoff
<i>Executive Committee:</i>	Charles Ragan William Kammerer Robert L. Preston Edward F. Hartung Currier McEwen Charles M. Plotz

CORRIGENDUM

Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases (1953), 12, 49. In the list of Officers of the Heberden Society for 1953, the initials of Dr. Ernest Fletcher should appear as E.T.D. (not E.G.E.).

LIGUE INTERNATIONALE CONTRE LE RHUMATISME

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, 1953

(THIRD ANNOUNCEMENT)

The principal speakers on the four main topics for discussion at the International Congress to be held in Geneva from August 24-28, 1953, will be as follows:

(1) **Connective Tissue** (J. H. Kellgren, *Manchester*, G. Teilm, *Copenhagen*, E. Hartmann, *Göttingen*, and C. Ragan, *New York*).

(2) **Steroid Hormones** (T. Reichstein, *Basle* (Nobel Prizeman, 1950), P. S. Hench, *Rochester, U.S.A.* (Nobel Prizeman, 1950), F. Coste, *Paris*, and A. Ruiz Moreno, *Buenos Aires*).

(3) **Surgery in the Treatment of Rheumatism** (R. Judet and R. Merle d'Aubigné, *Paris*, J. Permanyer Vilardell, *Barcelona*, and Dr. Brown, *Cleveland, U.S.A.*).

(4) **Rehabilitation of the Disabled** (W. Tegner, *London*,

H. Rusk, *New York*, G. Edström, *Lund*, and Dr. Hoske, *Cologne*).

Further information may be had from the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Prof. K.-M. Walthard, Institut de Physiatrie, Hôpital Cantonal, Genève (Telegrams: Rhumatisme Genève). Travel and accommodation will be arranged by the American Express Company, to whom all applications should be made. (See also the March issue of this Journal, p. 47.)

Those desiring to attend the congress are asked to register as soon as possible in order to be certain of accommodation.

CANADIAN ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM SOCIETY

The Saskatchewan radio stations broadcast four talks during March, 1953, to encourage the public to seek medical advice for joint pain and swelling at an early stage to lessen the risk of serious disablement. Drs D. E. Roger, Wendell Macleod, T. E. Hunt, S. C. Heal, and C. L. Comrie, together with physiotherapists, technicians, and patients, co-operated in the broadcasts.

In Manitoba members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade are helping to make simple appliances and equipment to assist patients in their own homes. A new physiotherapy centre has been opened in

Winnipeg. In Toronto, Ontario, arrangements have been made for swimming classes for arthritis patients at the Sunnybrook Veterans Hospital. In Ottawa special attention is being given by occupational therapists to assisting the arthritic housewife in her duties.

The Society is finding that the Mobile Arthritis Unit, combined with these various forms of assistance and service to patients in their own homes, is bringing valuable aid to many sufferers at a fraction of the expense entailed by full-time hospital treatment.