BOOK REVIEWS

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Edited by Basil Kiernander. 1953. Pp. 610, 26 figs, 11 tables. Blackwell, Oxford. (63s.)

The editor makes the point in his foreword that this book is written for clinicians in general, and not for specialists of physical medicine. The wide range of subjects indicates the enormous field in which physical methods of diagnosis and treatment are employed, and 50 per cent. of the contributors are not physical medicine specialists.

The claim that the basic sciences are studied in some detail is, unfortunately, not borne out by the text. In introducing physical methods to clinicians in other specialties it might be expected that full attention would be given to the rationale of physical treatment, and the physiological effects of potent physiotherapeutic measures in health and disease. However, the author of the chapter on applied physiology has the unenviable and impossible task of compressing his contribution into 15 pages. Some physics is included in Chapter XII, which is devoted principally to describing techniques, ten of its sixty pages being given up to the applications of the direct current and iontophoresis, which to say the least, shows marked lack of balance.

All the chapters on the various aspects of rehabilitation are good—that on geriatric rehabilitation particularly comprehensive and thoughtful. The section by Howard Rusk on the rehabilitation of the hemiplegic is a model and in a very few pages brings in a wealth of useful detail. Professor Bowden's chapter on the neuromuscular disorders is characteristically accurate, well documented, and original.

The rheumatic diseases in general are well covered, and the list of exercises appended for continuation treatment in the home might well be generally copied. The emphasis on home treatment and home-made apparatus is one which will not be welcomed by many in Great Britain, although it represents current American practice.

A major criticism of the book is the limited space allowed to each author, and the fact that where expansion is permitted, it is not always used to the best advantage. Treatments of doubtful value are included in detail, whilst some generally accepted are not considered. For example, in non-articular rheumatism the only treatment described is heat and heavy massage.

Although hydrotherapy in the management of the rheumatic diseases and poliomyelitis is discussed, no mention is made of walking re-education in the deep pool as a preliminary to weight bearing.

Subjects which usefully could be expanded are cerebral palsy, rehabilitation in heart disease, and antenatal and postnatal exercises, all important aspects of physical medicine which here receive rather brusque treatment.

The team of contributors is drawn from England,

Canada, and the U.S.A., and there is a valuable introduction by Lord Horder. The book is well printed and attractively produced, and the illustrations and diagrams, though few in number, are well chosen. However, errors in spelling are too frequent (e.g. evaporating, p. 397; collatral, p. 549; manually, p. 557; and three variations of one author's name—Frenkel, p. 275, Fruenkel, p. 606, Fränkel, index), and the listed references, so important in a condensed book of this type are disappointing.

The book is one which can be recommended to all generally interested in physical methods, and contains much of interest and value to students and specialists in physical medicine.

R. HARRIS.

Synovial Fluid Changes in Joint Disease. By M. W. Ropes and W. Bauer. 1953. Pp. 150, 13 figs, 15 tables, bibl. Harvard University Press; Geoffrey Cumberlege, London. (25s.)

This exhaustive monograph, embodying the authors' unrivalled experience of joint fluids in health and disease, is a mine of information. Present knowledge of the constitution and physiology of normal joint fluid is first described and thereafter the possible alterations in disease. Abnormal fluids are classified into three groups: those of traumatic origin, those of rheumatoid arthritis or of infectious origin, and those with mixed features. Each group is discussed with a wealth of detail. The book concludes with a short chapter on the diagnostic value of joint aspiration, an extensive bibliography, and a large, separate Table summarizing the authors' findings.

This book brings together a great deal of information in a small compass, and, though highly condensed, is clearly written. It will be a particularly valuable addition to the pathologist's library, for reference and guidance in the selection of appropriate investigations and the interpretation of their results, but all who deal with joint disease would do well to have this book at hand.

M. R. JEFFREY.

Traité de Médecine, Vol. XVII Maladies des Muscles, des Os, des Articulations, et Rhumatismes. By P. Chiche, F. Coste, A. Escalier, J. La Presle, F. Layani, M. Lelong, J. A. Lièvre, R. Leriche, R. Mallet, P. Padovani, et H. Thiers. With addenda to Vol. I (V. de Lavergne and P. Sédallian), Vol. II (V. de Lavergne), Vol. IV (P. Bertoye and M. Bernheim), Vol. V (P. Blamoutier, P. Sédallian, and C. Roubier), Vol. XII (E. Benhamon and A. Aschkénasy), and Vol. XVII (H. Thiers), and alphabetical index to the seventeen volumes. 1953. Pp. 1,062, 237 figs. Masson, Paris. (Frs 6,100; £6 10s.)

The seventeenth and last volume of this *System of Medicine* is devoted to diseases of muscle, bone, joints, and chronic rheumatism. It also contains addenda to

some of the previous volumes and an index of 240 pages replete with eponymous diseases and illustrious names (that of Heberden being, however, unfortunately omitted). The publishers claim that this volume completes "l'ouvrage le plus important et le plus riche de substance qui ait été publié au cours des trois dernières années"; it is also claimed that each volume is so arranged that it can be bought and used separately as a monograph, but the presence of the index and important addenda in the last volume tends to emphasize the unity of the series. As a work of reference, for which it is primarily intended, this compilation suffers from a number of faults which, no doubt, will be rectified in later editions. Fanconi's syndrome, for instance, is not described in this volume, but the index tells us that it is to be found in Vol. XII (devoted to blood diseases); similarly, osteomyelitis is placed in Vol. I (infectious diseases), and scleroderma in Vol. XIII (diseases of endocrine glands). Neither disseminated lupus erythematosus nor osteoid osteoma is described in Vol. XVII, and neither can be traced in the index. Four pages are devoted to cortisone and ACTH; these, though adequate for a text-book, will hardly satisfy a French rheumatologist, when, in the same

library, he can pick up a 414-page volume by Coste, Cayla, and Delbarre on "Cortisone et Corticostimuline (ACTH) en Rhumatologie", or Copeman's "Cortisone and ACTH in Clinical Practice". At the same time one can sympathize with the editors in their attempt to keep the work within reasonable bounds.

The print is good and the quality of the paper, though not uniform, is satisfactory. Each disease is introduced by a short and informative historical survey which stimulates interest. Bibliographical references are usually indicated by a number in the text and a footnote, but too frequently the reader is left to make what he can of a string of names only. Thus, when describing sacralization of L5, one reads that "c'est depuis 1910, en effet, que Adams, Goldwait, Kleinschmidt ont étudié les conséquences clinique de la malformation. À leur suite, et après les observations de Denucé, Calve, Japiot . . ." (p. 208).

This work will, of course, have a limited appeal, but the magnitude of the task undertaken is so great that the editors and publishers can take justifiable pride in their achievement.

DAVID PREISKEL.

LIGUE EUROPÉENNE CONTRE LE RHUMATISME

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, AUGUST 23, 1953

This is the last time I make a report in my capacity of Secretary General.

Both the Secretary, Dr. Kalbak, and myself have decided to resign our offices as from the termination of this Congress. We have both of us served in the Secretariat General of Ligue Européenne since its establishment in 1946; that is, for seven years; and we find it reasonable that new hands and new initiative should take over. I would therefore take the liberty of making a somewhat more elaborate report on the development of rheumatology since December, 1946, when Professor Jarløv, Director Bornemann, Dr. Kalbak, and myself made a tour through most of the countries of Western Europe, obtaining, through conferences with the various national rheumatological societies, agreements that made possible the establishment of Ligue Européenne concurrently with the reorganization of Ligue Internationale. I propose to deal in somewhat greater detail with the period following the last congress in Barcelona in 1951.

The aim of our organization is to further in every way the fight against the rheumatic diseases. Above all, we should support and promote scientific research. We do so by arranging congresses, by contributing to scientific periodicals, and by assisting personal contact and co-operation between research workers of different countries. We must also strive for better and more up-to-date tuition in rheumatology at the universities and medical schools, and stimulate whatever efforts are being made to provide better hospital facilities for the treatment of the rheumatic diseases.

(1) As far as *scientific research* is concerned, the period has been characterized by both initiative and progress. What especially captured our interest during the first years was the relation between the haemolytic streptococcal infection and certain rheumatic diseases, and much light was thrown upon this problem.

Then, in 1949, followed Hench and Kendall's epoch-marking observation of the influence of the suprarenal-cortex hormones. This opened up an entirely novel view of the pathology of the rheumatic diseases. It was estab-