Joint Changes in Paget's Disease. By IRVIN STEIN and MARTIN L. BELLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Comparison of Rheumatoid Spondylitis and Crippling Fluorosis. By CHARLES LEROY STEINBERG, DWIGHT E. GARDNER, FRANK A. SMITH, and HAROLD C. HODGE, *Rochester, N.Y.* (see p. 378).

Experiences in the Use of Metacortandracin in Disseminated Lupus Erythematosus and Periarteritis Nodosa. By CHARLES LEROY STEINBERG, ANDRIES I. ROODENBURG, and MILTON G. BOHRD, *Rochester, N.Y.*

"Diabetogenic" Properties of Metacortandracin, Hydrocortisone, and Cortisone Acetate—A Comparative Study. By CARL STEVENSON, F. W. MCCOY, and R. H. FREYBERG, *New York, N.Y.*

Rheumatoid Spondylitis: Course and Socio-Economic Significance. By ROBERT L. SWEZEY, JAMES L. PATTERSON, JR., STANLEY MARCUS, JOHN E. MEIHAUS, DAVID A. STRANGE, and MELVIN H. LEVIN, *Los Angeles, Calif.*

Relationship of Sydenham's Chorea to Infection with Group A Streptococci. By ANGELO TARANTA and GENE H. STOLLERMAN, *New York, N.Y.*

Another Concept and Syndrome in Rheumatic Disease. By G. DOUGLAS TAYLOR, *Toronto, Ont.*

Osteogenesis Imperfecta Tarda. By STANLEY L. WALLACE, PHILIP VIGODA, and HOWARD EASLING, *Selfridge Air Force Base, Mt. Clemens, Mich.*

Punch Biopsy of Synovial Membrane of the Knee in Diagnosis of Joint Disease. By HENRY A. ZEVELY, *Ann Arbor, Mich.* (Introduced by Ivan F. Duff.)

BOOK REVIEW

La spondilite anchilosante. By Tommaso Lucherini and Claudio Cervini. 1955. Pp. 469. Edizioni Mediche e Scientifiche, Rome. (L. 4,500; 50s.)

This volume of over 400 pages (15 chapters), which is claimed to be the first comprehensive work on ankylosing spondylitis in Italian, has been compiled by the director of the Rheumatological Institute of Rome University and his assistant. Excellent colour-plates, photographs, glossy paper, and an imposing array of indices, all combine to ease the task of the reader. The authors' own experience is based on a study of 215 cases (202 men, 13 women) and results are carefully tabulated. Much industry, too, has gone into the presentation of material known to the authors to be controversial. A map of Italy, for example, illustrates the incidence of the disease in various provinces, and one is struck by the figure of "46" for the Rome area and a "nil return" for, say, southern Sardinia. But the authors are the first to admit that the chronicity of the disease and the presence of a well-equipped Institute in the capital may have an important bearing on the results.

It is pleasant to read of the prominent role played by British rheumatologists, and on turning the pages one occasionally gets the impression that one is going through a list of the senior members of the Heberden Society. A fitting tribute is paid to the pioneer work of the late Gilbert Scott, it appears that out of some forty names suggested for the disease in the past 100 years, that of Buckley (1935)—"ankylosing spondylitis"—is the one favoured by the authors. Therapy, in general, follows British lines but, as is inevitable in a work of this kind, reference is made to methods untried by the authors,

some of which (*e.g.* the injection of Thorium-X and its probable deposition in organs such as the liver) would be rejected by an intelligent patient. One is somehow reminded of the old story about George Bernard Shaw and the lady who consulted him because her dog was misbehaving in the house. G.B.S. advised the lethal chamber. "But are you sure he would use it?" asked the lady.

It has now become customary to append summaries in at least two foreign languages and the authors have supplied them in Italian, French, English, German, and Spanish. Foreign papers have been developing a curious tradition in these summaries. They use impeccable French and German but insist on what may be called dutch-bulb-catalogue English. Thus, "tombant d'accord avec les auteurs suédois . . . qui ont apporté des contributions au sujet . . .", and "darin auch mit den schwedischen Forschern . . . übereinstimmend . . .", becomes in English (quoting the whole sentence)—"The authors, agreeing in this even with the Swedish research workers (Engfeldt *et al.*), who have added recently to the argumentative material, think that at the bottom of the apparent, harsh contrast between the findings of a phlogistic imprint, and respectively, degenerative, by the different workers mentioned above, and hence, the different evolutive phases in or during which the various observations befell." Fortunately, the English summary is no guide to the quality of the contents, and a perusal of the bibliography alone (given at the end of each chapter), suggests that it covers all major contributions to the subject.

DAVID PREISKEL.