pubis in 410 prostatectomies by taking special precautions to prevent infected retropubic haematoma. In rare cases the intravertebral disks (about 3 months post-operatively), the hips (about 5 months post-operatively), and the tarsus could be involved by the same process. An example of the latter occurring 10 days after prostatectomy was cited. *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* were the organisms most frequently implicated.

Gout had also been seen following prostatectomy. An example was cited of a man aged 70 (with a previous history of chronic tophaceous gout) who had had a most severe attack of acute gouty arthritis in the knee 13 days after operation, which signally failed to respond to colchicine.

The following papers were read by members of the British Association of Physical Medicine and guest speakers:

DR. P. HUME KENDALL and DR. M. E. FEARNLEY (*London*): **Punch Biopsy of the Vertebral Bodies.**

DR. R. GREENWOOD (*Glossop*): **Circulating Antibody Production in Rheumatoid Arthritis.**

DR. R. HARRIS (*Buxton*): **Rehabilitation Results in Rheumatoid Arthritis.**

DR. P. BAUWENS (*London*): **Electrodiagnostic Definition of the Site and Nature of Peripheral Nerve Lesions.**

DR. E. N. COOMES (*Bromley, Kent*): **Correlated Study of Intensity Duration Curves and Terminal Neuronal Re-innervation of Muscles.**

DR. C. M. GODFREY (*Canada*): **Immobilizing Efficiency of Cervical Braces.**

MR. J. C. F. CREGAN (*Manchester*): **Simple Correction of Equinus Deformity in Still's Disease by open Tarsal Crushing.**

BOOK REVIEW

Manifestaciones osteoarticulares de la Brucelosis. By J. Rotes Querol. 1959. Pp. 210, 60 figs, bibl. Editorial JIMS, Barcelona.

This volume, which comes from the University of Barcelona, will bring back memories to those who served in the Mediterranean campaigns of the last war. Brucellosis is still endemic in Spain, and the author was able to collect 174 cases between 1927 and 1955. The ten chapters, each with an English summary, cover all the

likely osteo-articular complications of the disease, and illustrate how it may mimic a variety of rheumatic affections. The diagnosis was confirmed by blood culture in 58 per cent. of cases, but serum agglutination was positive in 98 per cent. and complement fixation in 94 per cent. The erythrocyte sedimentation rate frequently normal.

To the British reader it will appeal as a work of reference.

DAVID PREISKEL

SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI REUMATOLOGIA

Acqui Prizes, 1959

The result of the Fourth Acqui International Prize Competition, for which 28 entries of great scientific merit were received, was announced on September 20, 1959.

The Prizes were presented by Senator Piola, the Financial Under-Secretary, at the end of a scientific session at which papers were given by the foreign members of the panel of judges, Dr. J. Forestier and Prof. P. P. Ravault.

The other members of the adjudicating committee were:

Prof. L. Antognetti, Director of the Medical Clinic of the University of Geneva;

Prof. G. C. Dogliotti, Director of the Medical Clinic of the University of Turin;

Prof. F. Quaglia, Representative of the Medicinal Springs of Acqui-Terme;

Prof. A. Robecchi, Vice-President of the European League against Rheumatism;

Prof. L. Villa, President of the Italian Society against Rheumatism and Director of the Medical Clinic of Milan.

The prize of 1,200,000 lire for original and unpublished work was divided as follows:

G. Sala, G. Ratti, and E. Cirila (*Medical Clinic, Milan*): *Researches on the Metabolism of Uric Acid in Normal and Gouty Subjects* (500,000 lire).

R. Garelli (*Rheumatism Centre, Turin*): *Histological Study of the Structural Changes of the Joint Capsule occurring during Adolescence and Old Age* (300,000 lire).

A. Marmont (*Medical Clinic, Gênes*): *Critical Review of the Neurovegetative Theory of the Pathogenesis of Scleroderma. Analysis of the Significance of the New Serum Protein Factors (Rheumatoid Factor, L.E. Factor, etc.).* (300,000 lire).

H. Fallet, H. Vasey, E. Meyer, and J. Sphar (*Medical Polyclinic, Geneva*): *L.E. Cells in Rheumatoid Arthritis* (100,000 lire).

The prize of 500,000 lire for a monograph published during the year 1958 was awarded to the book entitled *The Shoulder in Rheumatological Practice*, by S. de Sèze, A. Ryckewaert, and M. Maître (*Hôpital Lariboisière, Paris*).