BOOK REVIEWS

Les osteo-arthropathies nerveuses (Neurological Osteo-Arthropathies). By A. M. Recordier, P. Mouren, and G. Serratrice, with an introduction by L. van Bogaert. 1961. Pp. 167, 50 figs, bibls. Expansion Scientifique Française, Paris.

There are not many works on the joint lesions complicating neurological disorders and a new book is to be welcomed. The diseases covered include tabes, syringomyelia, leprosy, diabetic neuropathy, Thevenard's disease (a rare familial mutilating acropathy), para-osteo-arthropathy (ossifications of soft tissues near paralysed joints), and congenital indifference to pain. These are all diseases in which there is an absent or diminished pain sensibility for the protection of the joint. In addition, the authors include sections on the painful inflammatory and wasting dystrophies, such as the shoulder-hand syndrome, Sudeck's atrophy, and the postherpetic osteoporosis which may follow a neurological disease. It is useful to have these subjects brought together; the authors have read widely and have gone to great trouble to assemble their material in an orderly and readable fashion. Indeed, one cannot help wondering if they are not too involved in niceties of classification in a subject in which our knowledge of the disordered physiology is still scanty, and experimental observations are few. Each section starts with a brief recital of the names of the numerous authors who have written on the subject, and ends with an extensive bibliography, mainly devoted to papers from continental authors. It is provoking for the English-speaking reader to find that the reference system is often impossible to follow. With some chapters, such as that on tabes, there is a reasonable hope that an authority referred to in the text will be found in the list of references, but in the opening chapter devoted to a justification of concept of a neurological osteo-arthropathy, there are 44 references in the text, only five of which appear amongst the 71 in the reference list. In discussing lesions of the medulla followed by reflex dystrophies involving the limbs, the authors twice refer to the experiments of d'Albertyoni (who is said to have produced haemarthroses in animals by trauma to the medulla), yet they fail to give a reference to this author in the bibliography, so that the reader cannot take this interesting observation further without extensive research. The illustrations all consist of reproductions of radiographs, of moderate quality. No clinical photographs are shown, and only two actual case histories enliven the formal clinical descriptions of the various maladies. The book is interesting to read, because it is about an interesting subject, and the review of Thevenard's disease and its variants is very good, but those seeking information about the other diseases, unless they are particularly interested in the continental literature, would do better elsewhere.

A. ST. J. DIXON.

VIII Scandinavian Congress of Rheumatology.

The proceedings of the eighth Scandinavian Congress of Rheumatology, held in Finland during June, 1960, are published in Nos. 1 and 2 of Volume 7, 1961, of the *Acta Rheumatologica Scandinavica*. The two issues contain 31 papers. From the summaries of many of these papers, the following brief observations are made, the names of the authors being shown in brackets.

A haemagglutinating substance with properties similar to the "rheumatoid factor" has been produced experimentally in white rats and pigs by injections of a diplo-streptococcus isolated from rheumatoid subjects (Svartz). The "specific" haemagglutinating substances of the Gm system and the substances responsible for the Waaler-Rose test are probably closely related but separate macroglobulins (Harboe). Even refined techniques for the titrations of complement and the complement components fail to yield data to sustain an autoimmune-pathogenesis for rheumatoid arthritis and spondylitis ankylopoietica (Jonsen and Kåss). The microanalysis of the trabecular structure of cancellous bone gives a fair idea of the mineralization grade of the bone tissue, provided that the trabecular pattern is not irregular as it is in rheumatoid arthritis (Virtama). The study of electrocardiographic changes, the increased 1-noradrenalin secretion might constitute an additional link to the pathogenesis of rheumatic fever (Järvinen). Trauma and infection appear to be important elements in the aetiology of osteo-arthritis (E. Jarlöv, Brinch, and N. V. Jarlöv). In the appraisal of rheumatoid deformities of the hand and their treatment, the function is often adequate despite the deformities; discussion of the place of surgical procedures (Pulkki).

The need for orthopaedic surgery was found to increase with duration of rheumatoid arthritis; 1,227 operations were performed in 758 patients in an unselected series of 4,527 patients in Heinola (Vainio and Hurri). Carra-geenin granulomata showed an increase in uptake of radioactive proline into collagen fractions when incubated with beta-aminopropionitrile (Kulonen). A follow-up of 829 rheumatic cases in Västerås, Sweden, emphasizes the great importance of special rehabilitation units and a scheme for this purpose is discussed (Bjare). Prognostic value is attached to the titre of the Waaler-Rose test, which is more closely related to deep-seated anatomical alterations than the fluctuating state of inflammation (Tönder and Quamme). Reiter's syndrome complicated by universal keratitis blennorrhagica (Okla and Hiltunen). Adenosine triphosphatase activity in erythrocytes of rheumatoid arthritis did not differ from that of healthy controls (Györki and Sandell). 30 per cent. of 203 rheumatoid arthritics had reduced kidney function, which is a part of the disease itself (Sørensen).

HARRY COKE.