BOOK REVIEWS

Les anomalies congénitales de la charnière cervico-occipitale. (Congenital Anomalies of the Cervico-Occipital Junction). By STANISLAS GODLEWSKI and J. DRY (1964). Pp. 54, 33 figs, bibl. Expansion Scientifique Française, Paris.

To those concerned with the neurological and vascular complications of arthritis and disk disease in the neck, this booklet will make interesting background reading. It comprises a review of sixty patients with important congenital malformations of the upper cervical spine which brings up to date the collected observations at the Neurological Clinic of the *Hôpital Salpêtrière* (under Prof. R. Garcin). It concerns basilar impression (44), occipitalization of the atlas (23), cervical block vertebrae (15), hypoplasia, separation, or dislocation of the odontoid process (15), and cervical spina bifida (6). (Many patients had more than one anomaly.)

The first section presents a clear exposition of the anatomy of the anomalies studied and emphasizes the differences between basilar impression and platybasia together with the various x-ray techniques and measurements which have been designed to detect and differentiate these conditions. Block vertebrae in the neck were seldom of themselves associated with neurological complications but one case illustrated the tendency to premature and exaggerated disk arthrosis at the junction of two stiff segments of the cervical spine which might cause local narrowing of the spinal canal. Anomalies of the odontoid process (which are potentially serious because they may lead to dislocation of the neck) might require tomography in various positions to visualize them clearly.

The second section describes the associated neural, arterial, and meningeal lesions, from the Arnold-Chiari malformation and Dandy Walker syndrome to less serious anomalies. Vertebral angiography may show changes in the course of the posterior inferior cerebellar artery (the "loop sign").

The third section lists briefly the congenital malformations elsewhere which have been associated with maldevelopment of the neck, and the fourth summarizes the various clinical pictures. The tendency to recurrent "cervical crises" is stressed, exemplified by eight patients who noted attacks of pain, paraesthesiae, vertigo, and incoordination suggesting transient ischaemia of the cord. In some this occurred before there were any permanent neurological signs. Most commonly the patients presented with pyramidal and cerebellar signs in the lower limbs, associated with hypoaesthesia and stereo-anaesthesia in the upper limbs resembling disseminated sclerosis. Almost as common were signs suggesting syringomyelia or syringobulbia in some patients and pressure cone in others, or attacks of vertigo suggesting cerebellar or labyrinthine disease in yet others.

A fifth section deals briefly with contrast myelography and air encephalography, and the sixth with surgical intervention, mainly operations to decompress the cord or to stabilize dislocating segments of the cervical spine.

A. ST. J. DIXON.

L'actualité rhumatologique, 1964-1965. (The Practice of Rheumatology, 1964-1965.) By S. DE SÈZE, A. RYCKEWAERT, C. GUÉRIN, and M. F. KAHN (1965). Pp. 380. Expansion Scientifique Française, Paris.

Semiologia de los reumatismos. (Diagnosis in Rheumatic Diseases.) By J. ROTÉS-QUEROL, E. LIENCE, and D. ROIG ESCOFET (1964). Pp. 661. Espasx, Barcelona.

In Continental Europe rheumatology has separated rather further than in Great Britain as a specialty distinct from general medicine. As Prof. de Sèze remarks in his preface, whether one deplors it or not, specialties in medicine are gaining ground at the expense of general medicine and general practice because only the specialist can keep up to date with the advance of knowledge in any particular field. Both of these books represent professional rheumatology at its best, both will make considerable impact, and neither has an exact English language equivalent. At this point the resemblance between them ends.

The book by de Sèze and his colleagues is the first of an annual series of paperback reviews of rheumatology. It opens with a section which deals with inflammatory rheumatism and includes chapters on malignant rheumatoid arthritis, the pulmonary manifestations of rheumatoid arthritis, laryngeal involvement in rheumatoid arthritis, the joint manifestations of the carcinoid syndrome, Whipple's disease, and relapsing polychondritis. The second section deals with degenerative diseases of the joints and spine. Lequesne and Teyssandier's chapter on osteochondromatosis of the hip, with arthrographic studies, deserves special mention. A chapter by Glimet and de Sèze sheds new light on why the patello-femoral articulation is the commonest site for osteoarthrosis of the knee, although this is not the weight-bearing section of the joint. Detailed measurements have shown that the combination of a large patella associated with a small radius of curvature in the sagittal plane of the anterior (patella-articulating) surface of the femur is common dysplasia which leads to excessive local pressure and predisposes to osteoarthrosis. The reverse situation protects against it. The next section deals with extra-articular rheumatism and includes a beautifully illustrated chapter on the acroparaesthesiae of the upper limb. Another section deals with the morbid physiology of acute gouty arthritis, the diagnostic value of hyperuricaemia, and the articular and osseous manifestations of diabetes and haemachromatosis. This is followed by sections on metabolic bone disease, and on various aspects of drugs used in the treatment of rheumatism. A section of surgery in rheumatic diseases is notable for two chapters by J. Debeyre on the surgical treatment of primary necrosis of the femoral head (by pinning the sequestrum) and on the indications for vertebral bone grafts in the treatment of painful back. The final section deals with miscellaneous conditions, including carcinomatous neuro-myopathy, chondrocalcinosis, viral arthropathies, pigmented villonodular synovitis, and the post-radiational necrosis of bones and joints.

In countries without a comprehensive national health service, many patients with rheumatic diseases cannot afford the cost of expensive x rays and diagnostic tests. Physicians practising rheumatology in these countries must accordingly sharpen up their clinical skills. The book by Rotés-Querol and his colleagues sets out in great detail (and with much emphasis on the underlying and surface anatomy) the methods of examination of the spine and joints and the detection of the clinical signs of the various rheumatic diseases. It opens with a detailed chapter on the physiology of pain and areas of pain referral. Then follows a chapter on the signs of articular inflammation, on deformity, on the noises arising in joints, and on limitation of movement and hypermobility.

The third, fourth, and fifth chapters deal with the clinical manifestations of rheumatic diseases in extra-articular structures, in the bones, and in the nervous system. Chapter 6, by G. Tiñol Aguade, deals in considerable detail with the skin manifestations of locomotor diseases and has many illustrations, most of them in colour. The second half of the book is devoted to the examination of the individual joints and is again very clearly illustrated. The chapter on examination of the spine deserves special mention. A small final section is devoted to single-page summaries of the main rheumatic diseases. The book is notable for its clarity and scope. It is beautifully bound and the many references cited are accurately listed.

A. ST. J. DIXON.

OBITUARY

PHILIP HENCH, 1896-1965

Philip Hench died suddenly while on holiday, on March 31. He was Professor Emeritus of Medicine in the University of Minnesota and head of the Section of Rheumatic Diseases at the Mayo Clinic.

In 1950 he became Nobel Laureate for physiology and medicine "for discoveries in the hormones of the adrenal cortex, their structure, and biological effects", which were the result of twenty years of painstaking search, in association with his colleague E. C. Kendall, for the hypothetical rheumatic "substance X". It was this, they postulated, which must control the remissions in rheumatoid arthritis which they had observed to occur during pregnancy, jaundice, and one or two other conditions. The culmination of their researches was the memorable dramatic demonstration of the clinical effects of cortisone and ACTH which Hench gave at the seventh meeting of the International League against Rheumatism during its session in New York in September, 1949.

The news of this "wonder drug" rapidly became front-page news all over the world. Hench and Kendall, however, were careful to point out that their trials should at that stage still be considered to be in the nature of physiological experiments, and not as a cure for rheumatoid arthritis and other diseases. Nonetheless their warning went unheeded, and a period of disillusion resulted, to Hench's great distress.

When they were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1950 Hench with his customary generosity distributed part of it among his co-workers. Countless academic and other honours followed from all parts of the world. The United States Government entrusted him with a leading part in establishing the new Department of Arthritis and Metabolism in the National Institutes of Health in Washington which the late Dr. Joe Bunim came to direct; and in 1962 he and his wife were bidden to dine at the White

House with President John F. Kennedy. Hench was a founder and President of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Association, and in 1948 was awarded the Heberden Medal and later honorary membership of the Heberden Society. For many years he acted as an American Associate Editor of the *Annals of Rheumatic Diseases* and rendered great service; while the "Annual Rheumatism Reviews" of which he was the originator and chief editor constituted one of the formative influences of the new discipline of rheumatology, of which he can be considered a founding member.

Many of the present leaders of American rheumatology gained their first enthusiasm for the subject while serving under him during the war in the U.S. Army's great Rheumatic Centre of which he was the director, with the rank of Colonel. He was a brilliant and forceful speaker in spite of the misfortune of a cleft palate, and was a welcome figure at meetings all over the world. Wherever he went he left a host of devoted friends with whom he would keep in touch by correspondence—always in his own hand. He will be sorely missed by the older generation in this country and elsewhere.

The interest of his visits to England was not confined to rheumatology and medicine, for in addition to a love of tennis, music, and photography, coupled with considerable executive skill in each, he was fascinated by the Sherlock Holmes saga. He spent much time with fellow enthusiasts of the "Baker Street Irregulars Society", and wrote on the subject. He was also a considerable expert on certain aspects of medical history, and at the time of his death was engaged on a monumental work on Walter Reed and the discovery of the causes of yellow fever.

In 1927 Hench married Mary Kahler, his devoted companion throughout life. They had two daughters and two sons. One of his sons has followed his father into rheumatology.

W. S. C. COPEMAN.