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 Medi-
cine 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 aca-
demic and other honours followed from all parts of
the world. The United States Government en-
trusted 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 rheu-
atology 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 con-
fined 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.