

# ANNALS OF THE RHEUMATIC DISEASES

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concepts, all the authors admitting that we have, as yet, no certain knowledge of the cause of the disease. There is also some repetition of the differential diagnosis in a number of chapters.

Dr. Morris Ziff writes authoritatively on the laboratory findings in rheumatoid arthritis, and there is an important chapter on the methods of evaluation, contributed by Dr. John Lansbury, which is of extreme relevance in view of the number of new drugs with toxic effects which are being introduced in treatment. He makes the point that, to be truly effective, a single system of evaluation should be adopted, ideally with the backing of an international body. It is satisfying to note that the methods of measurement used in the A.R.C. Gold Trial are considered to be among the best.

The subject of gold treatment is very well dealt with by Dr. Richard Freyberg, who has himself done so much work in this field.

A masterly account of systemic lupus erythematosus is contributed by Dr. Shulman, who gives a clear picture of the wide spread effects of this disease.

This reviewer criticized the previous edition because the section on osteo-arthritis was not up to the standard of the rest of the book. This has been

completely rectified by the insertion of a masterly chapter on the pathology and pathogenesis of osteo-arthritis by Dr. Leon Sokoloff, which makes fascinating reading. He brings forward the concept that primary changes in osteo-arthritis may well occur in the bone, rather than in cartilage. There are now methods of measuring chemical changes by new techniques, such as auto-radiography, and it is pointed out that there is, as yet, no explanation for the fact that depletion of chondroitin sulphate in osteo-arthritis cartilage does not take place to the same extent in the normal ageing process. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Sokoloff throws out the challenge that, although scientific research in osteo-arthritis is as yet in an early stage, the pathological findings should not be interpreted as proof that degenerative joint disease is an inevitable concomitant of ageing.

Dr. Joe Hollander and his team of contributing editors are to be heartily congratulated on the new edition of this magnificent volume. This book can be very highly recommended to any physician or surgeon with an interest in this large group of diseases.

OSWALD SAVAGE

## IV PANAMERICAN CONGRESS OF RHEUMATOLOGY

*October 22 to 26, 1967*

The Congress will be held in Mexico City. Further information may be obtained from the General Secretary:

Dr. Gábor Kátana,  
Ave Cuauhtémoc 300,  
Mexico, 7 D.F.  
Mexico.

### BRAZIL

A new Department of Rheumatology was recently opened in Rio de Janeiro by the President of the Republic. The department, under Professor J. Houli, who is also Professor of Medicine, contains a ward for 22 patients, two 2-bedded rooms, and an

Out-Patient Department, together with facilities for physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Third, fourth, and fifth-year students from the University attend for specialist teaching.