BOOK REVIEWS

Progrès en rhumatologie. By F. COSTE. 1968. Pp. 774, 169 figs. Éditions médicales Flammarion, Paris. (130 NF.)

In France, the doctor who wishes to be a rheumatologist may seek the Certificate of Special Studies in Rheumatology. This will take him at least 3 years at the end of which he must pass an examination. The syllabus for the examination is described in detail and covers a wide field. This book would be a suitable text for that examination. There are no less than 43 articles packed into 774 closely printed pages, and all are good, standard reviews quoting large lists of references, (up to early 1965). Thus the book is more comprehensive than selective. None of the 23 collaborating authors rides any outrageous hobby-horse of his own through these pages. All use their allotted space in the marshalling and categorizing, exam-wise, of the divisions and sub-divisions of their subjects. This is a book for the swot not the sceptic: interesting but not inspiring. One is almost lulled into accepting the diagram on page 591, concerning various treatments for sciatica. Operation is shown as being followed by the highest proportion of improvement, in over twice as many cases as those treated with anti-inflammatory drugs, but (reading between the lines) it is clear that the cases submitted to the various treatments were never comparable, so that no conclusions should be drawn. A. ST. J. DIXON.

L'Actualité rhumatologique présentée au praticien. Edited by S. DE SÈZE. 1967. Pp. 300. Expansion Scientifique Française, Paris.

For the past 4 years Prof. de Sèze and his colleagues at the Viggo Petersen Rheumatology Centre at the *Hôpital Lariboisière* in Paris have produced annually a notable volume entitled "L'Actualité Rhumatologique", which sets out to present and assess the year's advances in every aspect of rheumatology throughout the world. It is a pleasing tribute to the energy and devotion of workers in this field that a satisfying volume of over 300 pages has been produced without wasted space or repetition. All the work quoted—much of it original—is of interest and quality; This year's edition like its predecessors constitutes in itself a "refresher course"

for the rheumatologist and a liberal education for the general physician or laboratory worker.

The subjects are arranged under general headings which include the inflammatory types of rheumatism, and degenerative forms, including iatrogenic conditions, Morquio, and Hurler's syndromes, and haemarthrosis. The side-effects of rheumatic therapy have a chapter; Surgery is excellently dealt with, and there is an interesting chapter on early synovectomy in rheumatoid arthritis. Vertebral pathology, a notable interest of the Editor's, is extensively considered, as would be expected; whilst other headings include gout, the association of certain bone disorders with abnormalities of phosphorous metabolism, and advances in such fields as auto-immunity, experimental arthritis, and synovial structure.

This is an easily-handled and well-printed book which may well be consulted by every rheumatologist who wishes to keep his knowledge up-to-date in a broad field. W. S. C. COPEMAN.

Maladie de Dupuytren (Dupuytren's Contracture).

(In French and English.) By J. M. BRUNER, R. M. CURTIS, J. GOSSET, R. W. HAKSTIAN, J. T. HUESTON, J. W. LITTLER, J. MICHON, H. MILLESI, C. NÉZELOF, M. SHAW, T. SKOOG, J.-M. THOMINE, and R. TUBIANA. 1967. Pp. 135, 70 figs. Expansion Scientifique Française, Paris. (41 NF.)

A meeting of surgeons (The *Groupe d'Étude de la Main*; Study Group for the Hand) brought forth this book, which will also have a wide interest for physicians and pathologists.

Dupuytren's contracture, mysterious, accessible, has intrigued surgeons for over a century, and many operations and other methods have been invented for its treatment. Much of this book concerns surgical indications and technique. Some favour local excision, others wide removal of the palmar aponeurosis. Some believe that the two histological appearances of Dupuytren's contracture (hypercellular with felted and interwoven collagen, or hypocellular with parallel collagen) represent two different varieties of the disease, others that these are two different stages of the same pathological process.

Hakstian, reviewing after an interval averaging 11·1 years, patients operated on by McIndoe, found

that 51 per cent. had developed some form of recurrence or extension; secondary or tertiary surgery was necessary in two-thirds of these to check the progress of the disease and maintain useful hand function. He concludes that surgery alone cannot be expected to produce routine cures.

Millesi, following unoperated patients with mild Dupuytren's contracture for from 6 to 12 years, found that 46.5 per cent. had developed evidence of further activity or extension. He suggests that the course of the disease is not significantly altered by non-surgical treatment by such agents as vitamin E, ultrasonics and radiotherapy, which give much the same proportion of patients whose disease is progressive. Surgery itself, by whatever method, would seem only to buy time for the patient. Against this are to be set the sometimes crippling complications of surgery (reviewed by Tubiana and Thomine).

The reader will find an interesting contribution by Thomine on the palmar fascia studied microscopically in early foetal hands and an important review by Gosset on the gross morbid anatomy of the contracture, but he will not find any review of the epidemiology of this condition, its associated

diseases, or any adequate study of its untreated natural history.

A. ST. J. DIXON.

Synovectomy and Arthroplasty in Rheumatoid Arthritis. (2nd International Symposium, January 27-29, 1967, Basel, Switzerland.) Edited by G. CHAPCHAL. 1967. Pp. 131, 66 figs. Thieme, Stuttgart.

The 2nd symposium held by the Orthopaedic Department of the University of Basel was devoted to the question of synovectomy and arthroplasty in rheumatoid arthritis. The collected short papers give a good idea of achievements to date in this increasingly important branch of rheumatology and orthopaedic surgery, together with problems which await solution, such as the need for further technical advances in various forms of arthroplasty and the exact value of synovectomy in preventing the progression of joint damage.

Contributions are of uneven standard but the small book is well produced and contains a useful if not lavish number of illustrations. It will form a serviceable source of reference for physicians and surgeons working in this field.

J. T. SCOTT.

HEBERDEN SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT, 1967

At the Annual General Meeting held on November 17, 1967, the President, Dr. Oswald Savage, was in the chair.

The following new members were elected:

Ordinary Members (from Associate Members):

Dr. P. H. N. Wood, Dr. S. Mattingly, Dr. P. Holt, Dr. P. Boardman, Dr. A. K. Thould, Dr. J. Holborow, Dr. S. D. Roberts, Dr. D. A. Pitkeathly, Prof. C. H. Barnett, Dr. W. W. Buchanan, Dr. B. McConkey, Dr. D. L. Gardner, Dr. A. Myles.

Associate Members:

Dr. P. D. Fowler, Dr. W. M. Zinn, Dr. W. C. Walker, Dr. E. R. Bickerstaff, Dr. R. J. Francois, Dr. M. K. Jasani, Dr. A. W. T. Eade, Dr. Mary Corbett, Mr. G. P. Arden, Dr. C. G. Barnes, Dr. P. A. Bacon, Dr. U. Steiger, Dr. C. H. Lack, Dr. I. M. Roitt, Dr. N. Williamson, Dr. P. D. Byers.

Associate Members (Overseas):

Dr. L. Hall, Dr. M. I. Bruk, Dr. J. Forster.

Temporary Visitor Members:

Dr. J. M. Thompson, Dr. H. Little, Dr. T. M. Scott, Dr. M. Robertson.

The President recorded with regret the deaths of Dr. H. Gibson, a member since 1947, and also of Mr. R. Rendell who had acted as Honorary Auditor to the Society.

Activities

The first Clinical meeting of the year was held on March 17, 1967 at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore. The meeting included a Symposium on the Physiology of Bone (*Annals*, 26, 565).

The Heberden Round was conducted by Dr. B. M. Ansell at the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow, on June 17. A full report of the papers and demonstrations at this meeting begins on p. 282.