BOOK REVIEWS

Medical Monographs. 3. Rheumatic Diseases.

Edited by J. J. R. DUTHIE and W. R. M. ALEXANDER.
1968. Pp. 296, 86 illus. Edinburgh University Press (63s.)*

No physician interested in the rheumatic diseases can afford to miss the up-to-date material which has been collected from the Pfizer Symposium held in Edinburgh last year. From the Introduction by Dr. W. S. C. Copeman to the last article on Allopurinol by Dr. J. T. Scott this book is packed with the latest views on practically every aspect of the rheumatic diseases which is the subject of current research.

All the articles are first class and it is difficult to choose any particular ones for mention. Professor Spector's contribution on the problem of chronic inflammation describes work going on at his own laboratories at St. Bartholomew's and makes fascinating reading.

Current work on lysosomes and their possible effect on erosion of cartilage is dealt with by Dr. Dingle from the Strangeways Laboratory in Cambridge.

Dr. Ball reports a *post mortem* study from Manchester on 99 cases of rheumatoid arthritis with some interesting new facts.

The prognosis in rheumatoid arthritis, always an important and difficult subject, is dealt with admirably by Dr. Alan Hill from the Oxford Research Centre.

One of the highlights is the latest report from Drs Alexander Stewart, and Duthie in Edinburgh of findings of diptheroid organisms in synovial membrane and fluid in rheumatoid arthritis; read in conjunction with a following contribution by Dr. Williams, now at the Middlesex Hospital Research Department, this reveals not only the possibility of an infective factor in rheumatoid arthritis but the tremendous difficulties in the investigation of these highly delicate organisms.

Dr. Ogryzlo from Toronto contributes an excellent paper on systemic lupus erythematosus, pointing out

that it is the prime example of an auto-immune disorder with a multiplicity of antibodies not matched in any other disease in man.

Whether the diverse papers of a symposium make interesting reading depends on the quality of the discussions which follow, which can emphasise controversies and important points. Here they are spread throughout the book, each dealing with a group of papers on similar subjects. They are short and outstandingly well edited so that one can almost feel oneself in the room taking part in the meeting.

OSWALD SAVAGE

An erupting volcano, a scarlet-clad hunt, and arable farming were the colourful metaphors with which Dr. W. S. C. Copeman introduced this symposium on the rheumatic diseases, gathering an invited audience of authorities from the United Kingdom, North America, and Europe. The quietest metaphor was perhaps the most applicable, with the possible exception of the beautifully presented and closely argued paper of Seegmiller. In his communication on recent advances in gout he provided overwhelming evidence for the heterogeneity in causes of hyperuricaemia, and discussed his studies in depth of the cause of hyperuricaemia in some patients with hereditary disorders, characterizing a specific enzyme defect in certain over-producers of uric acid.

The symposium dealt with the epidemiology, aetiology, and pathology of rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and gout, mostly describing the continuation of work published elsewhere. One advantage of such an account is the inclusion of the discussion. Thus we have six pages of discussion on the three papers connected with the possible aetiological role of various organisms in rheumatoid arthritis. However, the publication of papers in the manner that they are read, with a paucity of sub-headings and the absence of a summary, does not facilitate detailed reading or quick reference.

The quick production of this monograph has

*The Assistant Editor having by mistake requested two reviews of this monograph, both are given.

provided a 296-page volume of up-to-date information and thinking on selected topics from a wide range of rheumatology.

VERNA WRIGHT

Neurology in Orthopaedics. By the late PAUL H. SANDIFER. 1968.¹ Pp. xi+63, bibl. Butterworth, London. (16s.)

A working knowledge of neurology perhaps more than any other medical specialty is of course essential to the physician or surgeon who is concerned with musculo-skeletal disorders. This little book, and it really is little with no more than sixty pages, provides the ideal practical guide to the subject. For many years, until his tragically early death, Paul Sandifer himself provided just such advice for orthopaedic surgeons at his weekly clinic at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. Naturally there, as in this book, a large part of his time was devoted to neurological problems in childhood, particularly the interpretation of those hazy borderline states between the normal and abnormal.

The text was originally written for the volume on Orthopaedics in Butterworth's "Clinical Surgery" series. So many people thought it of such outstanding merit that it has now been published posthumously in book form. Certainly at sixteen shillings it must be one of the best bargains about, for it contains just about all the neurology most of us need to know without the necessity to spend long periods searching through the larger textbooks.

RODNEY SWEETNAM

Symposium on Autoimmunity and Genetics. Edited by W. W. BUCHANAN and W. J. IRVINE. 1967. Pp. 115. Supplement to Vol. 2 (pp. 715-829), *Clinical and Experimental Immunology*. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford. (30s.)

The function of a symposium is to give an accurate impression of the current state of knowledge. This is valuable in stimulating some workers to enter the field because they have a useful contribution to make, and in deterring others from entering the field because the contribution they wish to make is too close to what has already been undertaken. The present symposium, held at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, was sponsored by Lederle Laboratories.

Most of this symposium is a gathering together of information which already exists in the literature. Prof. R. G. White summarizes briefly the data on the genetic control of antibody response to chemically defined antigens. Hall and Stanbury provide evidence that autoantibodies to thyroid are inherited

as a Medelian dominant with incomplete penetrance. McFayden and his co-workers provided some evidence that iron deficiency anaemia may be cause of gastric mucosal atrophy and autoantibody formation.

Leonhardt summarizes his important studies on the family aggregation of cases of systemic lupus erythematosus and the discussion brought out the fact that the total gamma globulin is higher in females than in males.

Holborrow and Denman provide some evidence that the autoantibodies to red cells occurring in NZB mice (which are a model for systemic lupus erythematosus) are due to an abnormality both of the immune system and the red cells. Lawrence summarizes the present evidence that there is a familial aggregation of cases on rheumatoid arthritis.

Renwick, in the summary, makes the valuable point that in the year 1910 a study of rickets would have shown a considerable family aggregation due to poverty but only a small genetic contribution. Now that vitamin D is available in the diet, the genetic factor can be readily studied in the few cases of rickets that remain. Indeed genetic factors may be difficult to detect in the presence of major environmental factors.

This book, which is available at a price much less than that of production, should be of use to persons interested in the genetics of autoimmune disease.

G. L. ASHERSON

La Gota (Gout). By J. ROTÉS QUEROL and J. MUÑOZ GOMEZ. 1968. Pp. 256. Ediciones Toray, Barcelona.

The authors have set up a strict clinical criteria for gout. Major criteria are: the presence of a tophus; urate crystals in joint fluid; a typical acute attack of gouty arthritis in the big toe. Minor criteria are: a positive therapeutic test with colchicine; a typical acute attack in a joint other than the big toe; uric acid urolithiasis; hyperuricaemia; characteristic radiological appearances of gout. The patients included in this book had at least one major or three minor criteria for gout and the authors are clearly aware of and have excluded those other arthritic conditions, which may on occasion mimic gout closely. In this way 380 personally-observed cases of gout have been assembled and form the basis of this book.

In discussing aetiological factors, the authors believe that the role of alcohol may have been over-emphasized. In a review of 100 patients admitted to a special institute for alcoholism, none presented the necessary criteria for gout. As has