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

**Verna Wright**


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**


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.

Holborow 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**


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