

shared by 69 authors, and are divided into 70 chapters, most of which have a lengthy up-to-date (1969) list of references, surveying, unlike some North American productions, the European as well as the North and South American literature. Except for a few indifferent colour plates, it is well illustrated with diagrams and photographs and covers the same general field as the textbooks by Copeman and by Hollander. Of interest to English readers is the discussion on two cases of articular toxoplasmosis described by Spilborghs. The two volumes are well edited by Hilton Seda.

E. G. L. BYWATERS

Traitement Physique des Rhumatismes. Bases, Techniques, Indications, By J. ARLET and J. MOLE, with a foreword by J. FORESTIER. 1971. Pp. 294, bibl. Masson, Paris

The causes of so many rheumatic diseases are not known, and because of this, perhaps also because treatment has fewer implications for medical economics under a State Health Service than under a private practice system, we in Great Britain have tended to undervalue the physical treatment of rheumatic diseases, or, at least, have been considered so to do by our colleagues on the Continent. This book, written by one who is, I believe, the only full-time Professor of Rheumatology in France with one of his colleagues, is of value to us in that it describes what is actually done in the way of physical treatment by the Toulouse School. The exposition is admirably clear and each section consists of a small description of disease as it affects each organ or joint, followed by a review of the treatments given. I suspect that the British reader will still find parts of it uncritical and unproven, but that is the nature of physical treatment. If you cannot prove it works,

can you be sure it doesn't work? Is it not time, moreover, that someone turned the coin over and looked at its other face: no-one has yet died of a surfeit of physiotherapy or hydrotherapy, but the same cannot be said of phenylbutazone, gold, steroids, etc., whose positive virtues have been emphasized in controlled clinical trials. Arlet and Mole's book is well illustrated with two-colour diagrams which make the going easy even if the text is in French.

A. ST. J. DIXON

Tratamiento de las Enfermedades Reumaticas. By J. ROTÉS QUEROL and J. MUÑOZ GOMEZ. 1971. Pp. 380, 122 figs. Ediciones Toray, Barcelona, Spain

There are not many textbooks of rheumatology in the world today but this small book deserves to be compared with them. Although it is entitled "Treatment of Rheumatic Diseases", the introductory half of each chapter is sufficiently comprehensive to act as a textbook and every chapter is followed by extensive reference lists, should the reader wish to study further. The 122 illustrations are black and white diagrams, space being saved by the elimination of photographs and by the use of a relatively small typeface. However, with good use of paragraphing and tabulation, the range of rheumatology is well presented, including back troubles and soft tissue rheumatism. Certain 'diagnoses of convenience' based on mythical pathology, such as fibrositis, which still find their way into English language textbooks, have been left out. Instead, the authors have had the courage to tackle the problem of psychogenic rheumatism and to lay down the criteria which should be present before this diagnosis is made. A book such as this is likely to have a wide appeal amongst Spanish-speaking rheumatologists.

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Note

South African Rheumatism and Arthritis Association

The Third South African Rheumatism and Arthritis Conference will take place from July 19 to 22, 1972, at the University of the Witwatersrand. A major part of the proceedings will be centred on the single theme of arthritis in Africa. All interested medical and para-medical colleagues are welcome to attend and participate, and scientific contributions within the broad field of rheumatology are invited.

For further details please write to the Secretary, Rheumatism and Arthritis Conference, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Medical School, Hospital Street, Johannesburg. Telephone 724-1561, Ext. 337.