

BOOK REVIEWS

Archives of Medical Hydrology. (Journal of the International Society of Medical Hydrology.) Vol. 18, No. 1. April, 1948. John Wright and Sons, Bristol. Simpkin Marshall, London. To be published bi-annually. Price 7s. 6d. or \$2.00 per issue.

The *Archives of Medical Hydrology* had a welcome re-birth in April, when it appeared in a completely new and attractive format, published by John Wright and Sons as a bi-annual journal. There is a foreword by Lord Horder, in which he outlines the history of the International Society of Medical Hydrology, of which he is President. This Society was founded in 1921, and produced the first "Archives" in 1922. The chairman is Dr. Barnes Burt, and the Hon. Secretary Dr. Donald Wilson.

The first post-war number contains papers read at Buxton in 1946, and at Rheinfelden in 1947. The Society is meeting this year at Spa. The articles are contributed by authorities on the Continent and in the U.S.A. as well as in this country, and cover the treatment of peripheral vascular disease, effects of high altitude, and the use of hydrotherapy in poliomyelitis, war injuries, and accidents. There is also a paper by Dr. van Breemen on "Medical Hydrology and the Four Causal Factors in Rheumatic Disease", in which he expresses the view that infection, constitutional anomalies, the skin barrier, and environment are the essential variants. He finishes his paper with the remark: "It is manifest that spa treatment must not be regarded as the last refuge for rheumatic patients, but as a preventative for use in the earliest stages before deformities of the disease are stabilized. This necessitates an effective organization to ensure that all rheumatic patients who need spa treatment can get it, irrespective of their financial status."

We must compliment the International Society of Medical Hydrology on their first post-war number.

G. D. KERSLEY.

The Rheumatic Diseases. By G. D. Kersley. Second Edition. 1945. Heinemann: London. Pp. 120; 40 illustrations. Price 15s.

This is an excellent small book in which Dr. Kersley has covered the field of the rheumatic diseases in a delightful and stimulating manner. He has written from the point of view of the physician, but has included chapters on physical medicine which outline in a clear-cut manner the theory and methods of this group of treatments. The chapter on gout is extremely good. The impression is given that the spa method of doing sedimentation rates has superseded the Westergren and Wintrobe techniques but at rheumatism centres outside the spas this is not so.

Wise advice is given on the assessment of radiographs in osteo-arthritis and on the importance of treating the fibrositic element before concluding that the symptoms are due to bony abnormality. One would have liked more stress laid on the value of sling exercises and of hydrotherapy in osteo-arthritis, but these are very small points.

This book should serve two purposes. In little over a hundred pages the practitioner can be brought up to date in his knowledge of the latest views on the theory and treatment of this important group of diseases. The student or physician who wishes to make a more detailed study of the subject might well use this book as his introduction, for Dr. Kersley has included an excellent series of well chosen references for wider reading.

The whole subject is dealt with in a most competent and scholarly manner.

OSWALD SAVAGE.

HUNTERIAN PROFESSORSHIP

At a meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons under the chairmanship of Lord Webb-Johnson, P.R.C.S., held on July 8, 1948, Dr. W. S. C. Copeman was elected to an Hunterian Professorship for work on the pathological anatomy of lumbar fibrositis, and more

particularly to the place of oedema and herniation of fat lobules in lumbar and gluteal pain.

Original publications by Dr. Copeman on this work appeared in the *Quarterly Journal of Medicine* for 1944, vol. 18, p. 37, and in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* for 1947, vol. 79, p. 22.