

Reviews

THE SCOURGE OF RHEUMATISM. Current Medical and Social Views presented by the British Rheumatic Association. With an introduction by the Rt. Hon. The Lord Horder, *G.C.V.O.*, M.D. 1950. London. William Heinemann, Medical Books, Ltd. Pp. 85. Price 5s.

This publication is a report of a conference held by the British Rheumatic Association in September 1949. It will broaden the views of those whose knowledge of the rheumatic diseases is based on textbook information and hospital practice. In the discussions reported the problems of the rheumatic patient are carried from acute illness through reablement to resettlement in industry. The problems of treatment and reablement are discussed in one of their most difficult fields, that of rural patients with no ready access to treatment centres. Dr. W. S. Tegner contributes to this section much valuable information on practical measures to meet the requirements of physiotherapy under circumstances in which the services of a trained physiotherapist are not available. He points out that many old-time domestic methods are useful and may be successful, clears up any mystery regarding electrical treatment, and affirms that voluntary contraction of a muscle without moving the limb is preferable to faradism for strengthening weak muscles. The administrative problem as it affects Regional Hospital Boards is clearly presented by Dr. A. B. Williamson. The principles underlying the application of the Disabled Persons Employment Act are ably presented by Miss Norah Hill, and from this the reader passes on to an account of Remploy Ltd., the function of which is the employment of the disabled, and to a discussion on the problems and employment of the household rheumatic sufferer. Information on the work of voluntary organizations completes the volume. Throughout the contributions personality and psychological factors as they affect the issue receive careful consideration. The book gives a comprehensive view of the necessary integration of widely different services to meet the problems presented by the rheumatic patient.

J. B.

A MEDICAL HANDBOOK FOR ATHLETIC AND FOOTBALL CLUB TRAINERS. By W. D. Jarvis. London. Faber and Faber Ltd. 1950. Pp. 143. Price 10s. 6d.

To attain the standard of efficiency for the ideal trainer envisaged in Mr. Jarvis's introduction would require four to five years' full-time study. This book is written for those who can never receive such training and any suggestion that they might ever undertake manipulative or electrotherapeutic techniques is contra-indicated.

The physiology of posture, conditioned reflexes, muscle development and fatigue are of vital importance to the trainer but they have been omitted or dealt with too sketchily. The details of skull bones and muscle insertions are

of little value and might well have been replaced by the functions of the main muscle groups only. Errors in the action of the sterno mastoid and the insertion of the quadriceps require correction.

The sections on major injuries are adequate and of undoubted interest to the layman but to the athlete the trivial injury prior to some event is of more importance. The trainer's work in preventing co-ordinate action and maintaining performance in these cases has been overlooked.

Attempting to cover such a vast field this book lays itself open to criticism but it is a worth-while attempt to introduce the part-time trainer to his subject and stimulate him to further reading.

J. M. M.

Obituary

Major WILLIAM SYLVESTER CROSTHWAIT

In Brighton on September 11, 1950, Major William Sylvester Crosthwait, Royal Army Medical Corps, Retired. Born March 24, 1873, he took the L.R.C.P. and S.I. in 1893 and having served as a Civil Surgeon from November 21, 1899, till April 12, 1900, he was commissioned Lieutenant R.A.M.C. June 21, 1900. Promoted Captain June 21, 1903, and Major June 21, 1912, he retired February 2, 1922. He held the R.P. appointment at Ipswich from February 4, 1922, till transferred to Brighton, January 13, 1923. He ceased to be employed November 30, 1928.

He took part in the operations in Cape Colony in 1902, being awarded the Queen's Medal with two Clasps.

He served in Egypt in June and July 1915, in Gallipoli from July 1915 until January 1916, in the Persian Gulf in 1916, and then in Salonika until 1917, and in France and Belgium from February 12, 1917, till January 1, 1920. Mentioned in despatches (*L.G.* September 6, 1918) for valuable services on the occasion of the sinking by the enemy of Hospital Ships, he received the 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals.

Colonel JAMES EDWARD SWYER

In London on September 21, 1950, Colonel James Edward Swyer, late Royal Army Medical Corps, Officer in Charge of the Army School of X-rays and Adviser in Radiology to the Army. Born June 14, 1901, he took the M.R.C.S. England and the L.R.C.P. London in 1925, and the D.M.R. England in 1937.

Appointed Lieutenant March 14, 1928, he was promoted Captain September