

on muscular rheumatism, rheumatism of the spine, and sciatica and brachial neuralgia. A long chapter on the anti-streptolysins and blood uric acid in chronic rheumatic diseases is contributed by Drs. Koerner and Poulton, and they find that 77.5 per cent. of forty cases of rheumatoid arthritis are associated with the haemolytic streptococcus. Chapters on the physical and physiological basis of physical measures used in the treatment of rheumatic diseases are useful summaries both of the methods used and the rationale of their employment. Finally, treatment by light, hydrotherapy, drugs, and surgical and orthopaedic measures is discussed.

As will be seen, several interesting aspects of the rheumatic problem are dealt with in this book, and if the lectures do not cover the whole ground they will repay the reader as up-to-date expositions of the subjects under discussion.

### ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY

*Essentials of Electrocardiography. For the Student and Practitioner of Medicine.* By Richard Ashman, Ph.D., and Edgar Hull, M.D. (Pp. 212; 100 figures. 15s. net.) New York: The Macmillan Company. 1937.

This work presents clearly the common abnormalities of the electrocardiogram, and explains briefly the principles on which the form of the curve, both physiological and pathological, depends. As clinically the disorders of rhythm are now ranked secondary in importance to the state of the myocardium, of which they are merely symptoms, the authors wisely deal last of all with the arrhythmias. Yet the latter occupy a relatively large part of the book, while the changes associated with cardiac infarction, now perhaps the most important single aspect of cardiography, are discussed rather too briefly. A short description of curves obtained with chest leads is included, but the technique employed does not happen to coincide with the one recommended for routine use by the Cardiac Society and the American Heart Association, the book being published a few months before this was made (see *British Medical Journal*, January 22, 1938, page 187). There are numerous illustrations, and their quality is uniformly good. The book will fully meet the requirements of the beginner, and may well be read by those more advanced in the subject.

### RADIOGRAPHY IN DIAGNOSIS OF LARYNGEAL TUMOURS

*Le Diagnostic Radiologique des Tumeurs Malignes du Pharynx et du Larynx. Étude natomo-topographique et Radiographique.* By F. Baclesse. Preface by A. Hautant. (Pp. 270; 236 figures, including several plates. 100 fr.) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1937.

Many attempts have been made to utilize radiography as an aid to the diagnosis of laryngeal disease. That it has not become more popular is due to the facility with which the larynx can be inspected either by indirect or by direct laryngoscopy, and the additional information to be obtained by the inspection of x-ray films has not been of great value. Among such attempts the work of Baclesse is exceptional, and he has shown how radiology may be employed as a subsidiary means in making a complete diagnosis of tumours in the larynx and pharynx. Inspection will reveal the presence and site of a tumour, the microscope will confirm its neoplastic nature and demonstrate its histological character, but even with this information it is often difficult or even impossible to estimate accurately the extent of a tumour, especially when it is no longer in an early stage and has become rather extensive. It is particularly difficult in such cases to determine the extent in the downward direction, where it

is least accessible to inspection. Baclesse shows in his book, which is so profusely illustrated that it is more an atlas than a monograph, how the extent of a tumour, especially its lower limit, may be defined by an x-ray film, and thus a complete diagnosis can be made. In addition certain tumours which cannot be seen on ordinary examination, such as subglottic tumours, may be revealed in an x-ray film.

The author gives a detailed classification of the tumours around the base of the tongue, in the lower pharynx, and of intralaryngeal tumours. In his groups of x-ray films, which are admirably reproduced on special paper, he is able to show how the effects of treatment modify the appearance previously produced by the tumour. It is evident that special experience is necessary in the interpretation of such films, but Baclesse shows clearly that under favourable conditions this form of radiography can be made a valuable addition to the classical means of diagnosis. A careful study of the normal is naturally an essential preliminary, to which the author has devoted much attention.

### INSTITUTIONAL CATERING

*Scientific Catering for Institutions. A Handbook for Food Supervisors in Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Sanatoria, Hostels, Schools, Hotels, Boarding Houses, Etc.* By Juliet de Kay Whitsed. With Appendices edited by Ethel Browning, M.D. (Pp. 262. 8s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1937.

Large-scale catering seems at first sight to have little connexion with medicine, but it is clear that the food provided in hospitals may have a great deal to do with the success or failure of medical or surgical treatment. Miss Whitsed is dietitian at Johannesburg General Hospital, and her experience is largely of South Africa. She is somewhat at a disadvantage, therefore, in writing for the English reader, for although feeding habits are similar here and in South Africa they differ in various respects. Further, the author tells us that no hospital in South Africa has an established dietetic department on the lines of those in the British hospitals, and the chapter on "How to Train as a Dietitian" would have been far better had it been edited by someone working in this country. About half the book consists of recipes and methods for large-scale cookery, grouped under various headings, and suggested menus for different types of people are given. This part of the book is good. A chapter entitled "The Model Kitchen" contains descriptions and plans of several large kitchens, including that for Harrods' staff. It would have been a much more logical arrangement to put this chapter immediately following the one called "Planning and Equipping the Kitchen" instead of ten chapters later. Diaries in actual use in several institutions in South Africa and England are given and discussed, largely to the advantage of the former. In this respect the author's opinion appears to be somewhat biased. An entertaining description is given of the dietary of the competitors in the Olympic Games. The enormous quantities of meat eaten by the Americans and Germans are the most striking feature.

Miss Whitsed may be an excellent caterer, but she is no expert on the scientific aspect of nutrition. The chapter on the dietary essentials and the foodstuffs in which they may be found should have been revised or alternatively omitted. Statements such as "Vitamins A and D in tomatoes, oranges, lemons, vegetables" cannot be passed over without comment. The book is one which will be of practical use to caterers in large institutions, but to the medical man it will probably not be of more than theoretical interest.