

new and a neat method of using a double Kirschner wire in a special clamp to apply compression in joint arthrodesis is shown. Charnley's work is given due mention, but his clamps do not figure in the illustrations. There appears to be some fear of infection with a Steinmann's pin, and preference is given to the use of Kirschner wires. Inadequate attention is given to the section of surgery on active tuberculosis. There is a curious omission: while Lapidus's operation on the hyperflexed great toe in poliomyelitis is accurately described, his neat and masterly procedure in correcting the congenital overlying fifth toe is omitted.

This work deserves great praise. Its completion is no mean task and the fact that this is the second edition in three years shows that it is appreciated. Its references are sound and widely distributed through the continental and English literature. It is adequately illustrated and is set out in a systematic manner. The minor criticisms above are trivial ones and cannot affect the general validity and value of such a sound and solid work.—J. G. BONNIN.

Poliomyelitis. Papers and Discussions Presented at the Fifth International Poliomyelitis Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark, July 26–28, 1960. Compiled and edited for the International Poliomyelitis Congress. 10 × 7½ in. Pp. xxiv+435, with many figures and tables. Index. 1961. Philadelphia, Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Price 60s.

The report of the International Poliomyelitis Conference at Copenhagen in 1960 has shrunk again to the size of those of the first three conferences. This has been possible because discussion on the care of patients, the social aspects of the disease, physical medicine and orthopaedic surgery did not take place at the Fifth Conference. "The Programme Committee did not consider it desirable to include such subjects since little that was new and of importance had been added to the knowledge during the previous years." Nevertheless, readers of the previous volumes will welcome the new one because it continues the story of the successful attack on the disease by the virologists and offers an arena for the rehearsal of the world wide reports of the effects of the policies employed by the advocates of the two main systems of vaccination.

The whole of the first day of the Conference was devoted to virology including viral structure and reproduction, cell responses and immunological reactions. On the second day the discussion on vaccination began. The reports on the use of inactivated virus vaccines from various countries, particularly U.S.A., Czechoslovakia and Israel, admitted that the morbidity rates suggest that the vaccine could not ensure a long term prevention of epidemics. All agreed that the Salk vaccine had been effective in reducing the incidence of paralytic poliomyelitis and all lamented the lack of knowledge of the duration of post-vaccination immunity. Then followed reports on the large scale field studies with Sabin strains of live poliovirus in U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany, China and Bulgaria and in all these there was a notable decrease in incidence of poliomyelitis and in its severity leaving only mild manifestations with spinal localisation and facial palsy. The vaccinations proved to be completely harmless without any danger of reversion or transition by the vaccinal strains to a more virulent state. The time would appear to be ripe for the attempt to eradicate poliomyelitis. The last day of the Conference was devoted to the immunological responses to attenuated poliovirus vaccines and to their spread in the community and to the consequent implications for public health.

Looking back to the First International Conference in 1948 the change in the world picture of poliomyelitis is much greater than the most sanguine of observers could have hoped at that time. The true international pooling of scientific data and materials in the conquest of this disease is one of the most heartening endeavours to have been seen in a century in which the common international coin continues to be distrust, secretiveness and brinkmanship. Not all the answers to the problems of coping with the vagaries of the wild poliovirus are yet known, the ecology of artificial viruses is not fully appreciated, but at least the problems of their management are less difficult and frustrating than those of their hosts. Few people who have studied the reports of the four previous International Conferences will be able to resist the present volume which has the air of being one of the final chapters of a fascinating crusade.—John M. P. CLARK.

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