

# MEDICAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF VENEREAL DISEASES

## PROGRAMME FOR 1965-66

- Friday, October 29, 1965:* Annual General Meeting.  
"Immunity in Syphilis". Dr A. S. Wigfield.
- Friday, November 26, 1965:* "Education of the Public about the Venereal Diseases".  
Opening speakers: Dr J. L. Fluker and Dr R. S. Morton.
- Friday, January 28, 1966:* "Observations upon Penicillin-Bismuth Treatment in Cardiovascular Syphilis". Dr W. V. MacFarlane.  
"Arthritis and Genital Infection in Paraplegic Patients". Dr R. D. Catterall.
- Friday, March 25, 1966:* "New Methods of Contact Tracing in Infectious Venereal Diseases". Miss L. I. Ponting, Mrs A. Lamb, and Miss B. Musspratt.
- Friday, April 29, 1966:* "Epidemiological Profiles in Tropical Treponematoses". Dr T. Guthe.
- Friday, May 27, 1966:* Spring Meeting in Bristol  
Short papers

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Year Book of Dermatology, 1964-65 Series.** Edited by R. L. Baer and A. W. Kopf. Pp. 501, illus. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd., London. (75s.)

This regular favourite of the Year Book Series reviews recent published work in all aspects of dermatology. The major item in this edition is a survey by the two editors of the complications of therapy of basal-cell epithelioma based on a review of one thousand histologically verified cases. Section 13, dealing with venereal diseases, is given only seven pages and seems disappointingly short in view of the current resurgence of these infections in the USA and elsewhere. The confusion between Reiter's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and psoriatic arthritis emerges in abstracts of articles (p. 220 and p. 324) and two examples of aortic incompetence developing after Reiter's disease are recorded (p. 325). Penicilloyl-polylysine is considered (p. 146) to be the best reagent at present available for intradermal testing for sensitivity to penicillin. Apart from these few crumbs there is little of this annual loaf of direct interest to venereologists in Britain. S.M.L.

**A Short Textbook of Venereology.** By R. D. Catterall. Pp. 198. English Universities Press, London. (15s. paperback, 25s. boards.)

This handy book gives a comprehensive and clear account of the official venereal diseases and other sexually-transmitted conditions. It is intended to augment formal instruction in the subject and the reader must

consult other texts or clinical photographs for illustrations of the diseases described. By omitting clinical pictures and using paperback covers, the book is produced at a most reasonable cost and represents excellent value. Diagrams are included but, in some cases, will by themselves convey little to those lacking actual clinical experience. Nevertheless this new textbook is an excellent introduction to the subject and should prove popular with medical undergraduates and tutors of nurses, midwives, and health visitors. It will also provide a good refresher course for general practitioners and specialists in other branches of medicine wishing to bring their knowledge of these important diseases up to date.

S.M.L.

### **Venereal Disease: A Simple Explanation.**

In this small pamphlet of 15 pages costing 2s., Dr P. S. Silver, Consultant Venereologist, Civic Centre, Bolton, Lancs., attempts to tell the lay reader in simple everyday words something about gonorrhoea and syphilis. It is written particularly for the teenager, but the author hopes that it will also be useful for their parents. The danger of casual sexual exposures is stressed. When this advice has been ignored, the desirability of seeking skilled advice, treatment, and adequate follow-up in the Special Treatment Centres is emphasized. The need for the fuller education of young persons about the venereal diseases has recently been widely advocated and this booklet's appearance is opportune.

S.M.L.