

tumours embody doctrines that are now essential to the proper understanding of connective tissue behaviour, not only in neoplasia, but in pathological reactions of all kinds. There are commendable chapters on tumours of synovial tissues and of the nerve sheaths and on angiomas.

The book is undoubtedly a classic. It must not be overlooked by anyone with either a philosophical or a practical interest in neoplasia. Here and there somewhat unconventional opinions are expressed rather dogmatically, but Willis made it clear in the preface to his first edition that it was his policy "to state plainly my own present opinions, even though these may have to be modified in the light of future experience." Indeed, he has modified them in successive editions or, as often as otherwise, outside experience has proved him right.—D. H. COLLINS.

A Catalogue of The H. Winnett Orr Historical Collection and Other Rare Books in the Library of the American College of Surgeons. Editor: Miss L. Marguerite PRIME. $10\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ in. Pp. xxi+198, with 23 figures. 1960. Chicago: American College of Surgeons. Price \$7.50.

Dr H. Winnett Orr, a much loved and distinguished surgeon, died in 1956 and bequeathed a remarkable collection of books to the American College of Surgeons. His well known work on compound fractures made his name known throughout the world. It was at Whitechurch Hospital, near Cardiff, in 1919 that the unhappy results of treatment and the long delay in treating of open fractures convinced him that frequent changes of dressings was an important factor in delaying healing. He had always been an admirer of H. O. Thomas's oft reiterated principle of "rest, uninterrupted and prolonged," and this he carried out in his new method by enclosing the fracture in plaster-of-Paris. Amid grave opposition he transported large numbers of American soldiers with compound suppurating fractures home in plaster, and in spite of the forebodings of disaster the patients did well.

He was lecturer on the History of Medicine at the University of Nebraska (1903) and his studies in preparation for his lectures had the effect of making him an ardent book collector. From 1920 till his death he regularly haunted the second-hand book stores of whatever city he might visit.

The Winnett Orr collection in the College Library consists of some 2,600 volumes and includes many rare old items, numerous publications marking eras in the history of surgery and orthopaedics, individual and collective biographies, and books pertaining to the history of institutions. Various writings of Galen appear in the list under dates extending from 1524 to 1856. Undoubtedly the most beautiful edition in this collection is the four-volume publication of Galen's complete works which appeared in 1561 and 1562. Nicholas Andry's original edition *L'Orthopédie* (1741) and the English translation (1743) are of great interest to the orthopaedic surgeon, as well as many others, numbering up to 400, on that special branch of surgery. The first two volumes of the *Transactions of the British Orthopaedic Society*, 1896 and 1897, are in the collection with a little footnote, "These two small volumes were obtained from Oxford, England, in 1938. I had made a long search for them because I knew that they were in existence but had never seen copies until this time."

The H. Winnett Orr collection in the College library has been divided into two sections. The first represents the rare books and classics. The second, and larger division, includes volumes on the allied fields of anatomy, physiology and general and orthopaedic surgery. The last was the speciality to which Dr Orr was particularly devoted and upon which his notes were most personal, reflecting, as they did, his principles and his experience as the speciality developed, as well as his affection for his former teacher and friend, Dr John Ridlon. Through Ridlon he acquired a knowledge of the personality of Hugh Owen Thomas and Sir Robert Jones, leading to the publication of his book on these great men.

This is not a mere catalogue for it contains many footnotes written by Winnett Orr himself on the books, notably those on Jones, Thomas, Steindler and even Scholl. This is a notable contribution and one of great value to authors, particularly on orthopaedic subjects.—Walter MERCER.