

## REVIEWS

*Studies in the Palaeopathology of Egypt.* By Sir MARC ARMAND RUFFER, C.M.G., M.D., Late President of the Quarantine Council of Egypt. Edited by ROY L. MOODIE, PH.D., Associate Professor of Anatomy in the University of Illinois. pp. 372. Plates LXXI. (Chicago University Press.)

This stately volume contains studies by the late Sir Marc A. Ruffer on the diseases of historic and prehistoric peoples—a branch of medical knowledge to which he gave the name of Palaeopathology. In an introductory note to the eighteenth study or paper of the series contained in this volume, Lady Ruffer writes as follows: “When starting in December, 1916, on a mission which was evidently attended by dangers and which finally proved fatal to my husband, he left with me instructions as to the various unfinished papers at which he and I had worked together.”

To say that a voyage across the Mediterranean from Egypt to Salonika in the winter 1916–1917 was attended with “dangers” is an inadequate expression of the murderous success which then attended the submarine campaign. Ruffer, having given his medical aid in Salonika was torpedoed on his way back to Egypt and gave his own life to save that of a fellow passenger. He was then 57 years of age, 20 of which he had spent in Egypt as pathologist and as President of the Sanitary Council. He was one of the first British pupils of Pasteur and Metchnikoff. He was a master of microscopical technique which he applied to the investigation of the tissues and diseases of ancient Egyptians. These studies occupied intervals stolen from his official duties.

The papers deal with the histology of Egyptian mummies; a case of spinal caries of 1000 B.C., the detection of *Bilharzia haematobia* in mummified kidneys, arterial lesions, skin eruption resembling variola, dwarfs and deformed persons found in ancient tombs or records. The chief papers deal with chronic arthritis and diseases of the teeth and jaws.

This memorial volume has many interests for anatomists for the examination of ancient human remains usually falls to their province. Sir Marc A. Ruffer, almost in every page, acknowledges his indebtedness to Professor Elliot Smith and Professor Wood Jones, who made the *Reports of the Archaeological Survey of Nubia* a mine of wealth for pathologists as well as for anthropologists and anatomists for many years to come. Further, the volume has been ably edited by an anatomist, Professor Roy L. Moodie. The volume forms a fitting remembrance of a handsome, gallant, engaging and gifted personality.