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 **Epidemic Influenza. A Survey.**

Author(s) : [JORDAN, Edwin O.](#)

Author Affiliation : Chicago: American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn S

Book : [Epidemic Influenza. A Survey.](#) 1927 pp.599 pp.

Abstract : Professor Jordan's work on influenza is already so well known (so many articles from his pen were recently reviewed in these columns) that this volume is cordially welcomed by all students of epidemiology, as well as those who deal with it out from among the welter of cases that are lumped together under the 'old' diagnosis of 'influenza,' something that might be defined as a clinical or pathological entity. On these questions Professor Jordan is very carefully non-committal. His mind towards many recorded observations is well expressed in connexion with the use of vaccines. After quoting a number of observers who were convinced of t

inoculation with "killed bacterial cultures of various sorts " and the views of : who were more sceptical, Professor Jordan comments as follows: " The mu organisms used and the extraordinary variation in the formulas of both the and the prophylactic vaccines betoken the rule of a relatively crude empiric of endeavour. . . Whether the physiologic effects observed in influenza pati with bacterial vaccines are anything more than would be produced by nonb proteins seems questionable." (pp. 301-2). This wisely critical attitude is ma throughout the book, and in discussing the question of acquired immunity h 290) " it is impossible in the present state of our knowledge to make a certa diagnosis of influenza in any single individual case."

A chapter to which many readers will turn with interest is that dealing with i epidemic encephalitis, and here again, after exhaustive discussion of the su verdict is ' not proven.' Some might not agree with this conclusion, but they as elsewhere throughout the book an enormous mass of material, statistica not only collected but summarized, which will be of the utmost value to any subject in forming his own conclusion after comparison with his own experi Space permits only a bare reference to the admirable sketch of the history o epidemics, and the statistical survey of the nature and course of the pande which are contained in the earlier chapters.

As pointed out in the preface, both from the geographical point of view and mortality, the pandemic of 1918 was on even a vaster scale than the war, w follower it seems to have been.

Some idea of the magnitude of the task undertaken by Professor Jordan is g the fact that the bibliography quoted occupies 52 pages. It is a book of enth in the reading of it. but above all it must long remain the standard book of re this most important of all medical problems. F. E. Wynne.

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Broader term(s) : Orthomyxoviridae, negative-sense ssRNA Viruses, ssRNA Viruse

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