Notes and news

Future and present magnetic resonance imaging

The department of radiology, George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, DC is presenting a course entitled 'Future and present MRI', from 9 to 13 January 1991, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Naples, Florida. The program director is Dr David O Davis, and the registration fee for the course is \$515 for practising doctors and \$325 for residents, fellows, and technologists. The course will be accredited for 22 hours in category 1 by the George Washington University Medical Center.

For more detailed information please contact: Dawne Ryals, Ryals & Associates, PO Box 1925, Roswell, GA 30077-1925, USA. Tel (404) 641 9773. Fax (404) 552 9859.

Magnetic resonance imaging

A course on magnetic resonance imaging will be held from 4 to 8 March 1991, at the Hotel del Coronado, Coronado (San Diego), California. The program directors are Drs John R Hesselink, Robert F Mattrey, and Donald S Resnick.

For more detailed information please contact: Dawne Ryals, Ryals & Associates, PO Box 1925, Roswell, GA 30077-1925, USA. Tel (404) 641 9773. Fax (404) 552 9859.

Towards free articulation

The XIIth congress of rheumatology will be held from 30 June to 6 July 1991, in Budapest, Hungary, under the general title of 'Towards free articulation'.

The programme will consist of plenary lectures, scientific workshops, including invited speakers, selective free papers and presented posters, free paper sessions, and sponsored symposia. The deadline for registration and abstracts is 31 December 1990.

For further details please contact: the Congress Secretariat, Congress Office, PO Box 62, Budapest 23, 1277 Hungary.

Calendar of events

In 1991

27-28 June BSR/Institute of Child Health paediatric rheumatology course on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the death of George Frederic Still
Contact: Dr P Woo, Northwick Park Hospital, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3UJ. Tel 081 869 3578

In 1992

31 May-3 June 24th Scandinavian congress of rheumatology, Malmoe, Sweden
Contact: Professor Frank A. Wollheim, Department of Rheumatology, Lund University Hospital, S-221 85 Lund, Sweden. Tel 46 46 171620. Fax 46 46 128468

22-25 July VIIth EULAR symposium organised by BSR and BLAR 'Science and the practice of rheumatology', Barbican Centre, London
Contact: Concorde Services Ltd, 10 Wendell Road, London W12 9RT. Tel 081 743 3106

Book reviews

Parents with Disabilities. Eds G M Cochrane, E R Wilshere. (Pp 96; £6.) Headington, Oxford: Oxfordshire Health Authority, 1989. ISBN 0-946112-26-6.

Parents with Disabilities is intended to supersede *Disabled Mother in the Equipment for Disabled People* series.

As with the other titles in this series the reader is given general information and guidelines to assist in choosing equipment. There are clear descriptions of specific products, and where appropriate, of their advantages and disadvantages. Throughout the book information is presented clearly and usually with a photograph or illustration. The reader is also given a useful 'run down' on other useful resources for help and advice. The information is presented in such a way that it can be used by therapists and advisers or by the clients themselves.

The range of products available for use in childcare is very wide and is constantly changing. Unless a therapist or adviser has recently had a child it is almost impossible to keep up to date with appropriate product ranges and information resources. I would, therefore, anticipate that this new edition would be a useful book for anyone involved in caring for or advising parents with disabilities.

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CHRISTINE MERCER

The Biological Basis of Disease: Selected Papers by P R J Burch. Eds M S Chesters, J E Burch. (Pp 280; £14.95; \$25.) Leeds: Leeds University Press, 1990. ISBN 0-85316-147-X.

The late Philip Burch, holding a personal chair of medical physics in the University of Leeds, was a most original thinker. His early work on radiation dosimetry familiarised him with stochastic processes and caused him to consider the essentially stochastic nature of disease mechanisms. The editors of this book have brought together 21 of his many papers, to summarise his theory of disease and his questioning of accepted epidemiological studies. He analysed the age patterns of onset of numerous diseases and aging conditions, proposing that most of them were initiated by specific random somatic mutations in genetically predisposed persons. The first three of his articles presented his ideas on growth and disease that were developed with R G Burwell, now professor of human morphology and experimental orthopaedics at the University of Nottingham. These workers suggested that their theory of autoaggressiveness answered such questions as why certain diseases are much more prevalent in one sex than the other, why dental caries is distributed in a distinctive pattern in the mouth, why stress and infection exacerbate chronic disease conditions, and why non-immune subjects nevertheless show very different susceptibilities to infectious illnesses. The next 10 papers provide supporting evidence for this theory, which embraced many