BOOK REVIEWS


The editor makes the point in his foreword that this book is written for clinicians in general, and not for specialists of physical medicine. The wide range of subjects indicates the enormous field in which physical methods of diagnosis and treatment are employed, and 50 per cent. of the contributors are not physical medicine specialists.

The claim that the basic sciences are studied in some detail is, unfortunately, not borne out by the text. In introducing physical methods to clinicians in other specialties it might be expected that full attention would be given to the rationale of physical treatment, and the physiological effects of potent physiotherapeutic measures in health and disease. However, the author of the chapter on applied physiology has the unenviable and impossible task of compressing his contribution into 15 pages. Some physics is included in Chapter XII, which is devoted principally to describing techniques, ten of its sixty pages being given up to the applications of the direct current and iontophoresis, which to say the least, shows marked lack of balance.

All the chapters on the various aspects of rehabilitation are good—that on geriatric rehabilitation particularly comprehensive and thoughtful. The section by Howard Rusk on the rehabilitation of the hemiplegic is a model and in a very few pages brings in a wealth of useful detail. Professor Bowden’s chapter on the neuromuscular disorders is characteristically accurate, well documented, and original.

The rheumatic diseases in general are well covered, and the list of exercises appended for continuation treatment in the home might well be generally copied. The emphasis on home treatment and home-made apparatus is one which will not be welcomed by many in Great Britain, although it represents current American practice.

A major criticism of the book is the limited space allowed to each author, and the fact that where expansion is permitted, it is not always used to the best advantage. Treatments of doubtful value are included in detail, whilst some generally accepted are not considered. For example, in non-articular rheumatism the only treatment described is heat and heavy massage.

Although hydrotherapy in the management of the rheumatic diseases and poliomyelitis is discussed, no mention is made of walking re-education in the deep pool as a preliminary to weight bearing.

Subjects which usefully could be expanded are cerebral palsy, rehabilitation in heart disease, and antenatal and postnatal exercises, all important aspects of physical medicine which here receive rather brusque treatment.

The team of contributors is drawn from England, Canada, and the U.S.A., and there is a valuable introduction by Lord Horder. The book is well printed and attractively produced, and the illustrations and diagrams, though few in number, are well chosen. However, errors in spelling are too frequent (e.g. vapouruating, p. 397; collateral, p. 549; manually, p. 557; and three variations of one author’s name—Frenkel, p. 275, Fruenkel, p. 606, Fränkel, index), and the listed references, so important in a condensed book of this type are disappointing.

The book is one which can be recommended to all generally interested in physical methods, and contains much of interest and value to students and specialists in physical medicine. R. HARRIS.


This exhaustive monograph, embodying the authors’ unrivalled experience of joint fluids in health and disease, is a mine of information. Present knowledge of the constitution and physiology of normal joint fluid is first described and thereafter the possible alterations in disease. Abnormal fluids are classified into three groups: those of traumatic origin, those of rheumatoid arthritis or of infectious origin, and those with mixed features. Each group is discussed with a wealth of detail. The book concludes with a short chapter on the diagnostic value of joint aspiration, an extensive bibliography, and a large, separate Table summarizing the authors’ findings.

This book brings together a great deal of information in a small compass, and, though highly condensed, is clearly written. It will be a particularly valuable addition to the pathologist’s library, for reference and guidance in the selection of appropriate investigations and the interpretation of their results, but all who deal with joint disease would do well to have this book at hand.

M. R. JEFFREY.


The seventeenth and last volume of this System of Medicine is devoted to diseases of muscle, bone, joints and chronic rheumatism. It also contains addenda to
Synovial Fluid Changes in Joint Disease

M. R. Jeffrey

Ann Rheum Dis 1953 12: 354
doi: 10.1136/ard.12.4.354-b

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://ard.bmj.com/content/12/4/354.2.citation

Email alerting service
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/