

- 2 Kaye B L. Neurologic changes with excessively large breasts. *South Med J* 1972; **65**: 177-80.
- 3 McGough E C, Pearce M B, Byrne J P. Management of thoracic outlet syndrome. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 1979; **77**: 169-74.
- 4 Wilbourn A J. *Case report No 7: True neurogenic thoracic outlet syndrome*. Rochester, Minnesota: American Association of Electrodiagnosis and Electromyography, 1983.
- 5 Dale W D, Malcolm R L. Management of thoracic outlet syndrome. *Ann Surg* 1975; **181**: 575-85.
- 6 Lord J W. Thoracic outlet syndromes: real or imaginary? *NY State J Med* 1981; **81**: 1488-9.

SIR, I thank Drs Wright and Nicholas for bringing the papers of Kaye and McGough to my attention.

Kaye reported the almost universal incidence of ulnar hyperaesthesiae in large breasted women. McGough made his suggestion in the broad context of thoracic outlet syndromes. Neither has postulated the precise mechanism and symptom complex described in my paper.

As for the comments of Drs Wright and Nicholas on electrodiagnostic studies—the costoclavicular syndrome produced by the mechanism described by me is restricted to a selected population, i.e., heavy breasted, usually middle aged or elderly women. In such subjects a careful history and clinical examination bearing in mind the differentiating features stated in my paper helps to distinguish between costoclavicular syndrome and other conditions. Therefore, I do not agree that *all* patients with thoracic outlet syndromes must have electrodiagnostic studies to exclude carpal tunnel syndrome. The limitations of such studies in thoracic outlet syndromes are well recognised. Electrodiagnostic studies do have a place, however, in selected patients where the differentiation of thoracic outlet syndromes from carpal tunnel syndrome is difficult on the basis of history and clinical examination.

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## Notes

### Grand Rapids 18th annual international symposium

This symposium on implant surgery for the hand, upper extremity, and foot will be held at the Blodgett Memorial Medical Centre, Grand Rapids on 24-26 September, 1987. Further information from Alfred B Swanson MD, Blodgett Professional Building, Suite 290, 1900 Wealthy Street, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506, USA.

### Metro A Ogrzylo International Fellowship

The eighth Ogrzylo Fellowship, which carries a stipend of US \$22 000 a year, will be awarded for training in rheumatology at a Canadian Rheumatic Disease Unit for the 12 months commencing 1 July 1988. Details from The Arthritis Society, 250 Bloor Street East, Suite 401, Toronto, Ontario M4W 3P2, Canada, to whom applications must be submitted by 15 October 1987. Canadian citizens and landed immigrants to Canada are not eligible.

### Volvo awards for low back pain research 1988

The Volvo Company of Göteborg has again sponsored three prizes of US \$7000 each in the following three areas: clinical studies, bioengineering studies, and studies in other basic science areas. Papers submitted must contain original material, not previously published or submitted for publication. Multiple authorship is acceptable. Manu-

scripts should be complete reports, including original illustrations, not exceeding 30 typewritten pages, double spaced, and in a form suitable for submission to a scientific journal. Six copies should reach the address given below not later than 15 November 1987. One of the authors should be prepared, at his/her own expense, to come to Miami, Florida, USA, for the meeting of the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine, 12-16 April 1988, to present the paper and receive the award. Correspondence to Professor Alf Nachemson, Department of Orthopaedics, Sahlgren Hospital, S-413 45 Göteborg, Sweden.

### Annual meeting of the New Zealand Rheumatism Association

The annual scientific meeting of the New Zealand Rheumatism Association, Auckland, New Zealand, will be held on 18-19 September 1987. Registration for non members \$US150. Details from Secretary, NZRA, Department of Rheumatology, Auckland Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand.

### 3rd Bone, joint, and connective tissue pathology workshop

This workshop will be held on 16-18 September 1987 at the University Hospital of South Manchester. The course will be of interest to medical and dental pathologists and

laboratory workers in relevant fields. Details from Professor D L Gardner, Department of Histopathology, University Hospital of South Manchester, Withington, Manchester M20 8LR.

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## Clinical vignette

'J'ai étudié les malades non les maladies.'

From: François Sigismund Jaccoud in Delahaye A, Lecrosnier E, eds. *Leçon d'ouverture du cours de Clinique Médicale* (9 November 1886).

Submitted by Professor E G L Bywaters.

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## Book reviews

**The Rheumatological Physical Examination.** Edited by H Little. Pp. 149. US\$39.50. Grune and Stratton: Florida. 1986.

This book is aimed at students, interns, and trainees in rheumatology. The introduction correctly states that physical examination is paramount in rheumatological management and that it is a bedside activity. It follows that it can only be properly learnt at the bedside. A written text will serve for reference and for revision. This particular volume will need to be extensively revised and rearranged before it becomes useful for its purpose.

It opens with separate chapters on the general features of normal and of abnormal joints. This is followed by the longest chapter, which deals with the three minute complete examination of the normal co-operative patient, lavishly illustrated with photographs. Then, separate chapters deal with the detailed examination of individual joints or regions. Each of these chapters begins with an outline of embryonal development, which is sketchy and not quite relevant, followed by an anatomical description of each joint which is not quite detailed enough for the serious student.

Many illustrations appear twice and there are separate numbering sequences for diagrams and for photographs. As a result the numbering system is totally confusing. I would have preferred to see a single sequence of chapters and illustrations with differential typeface for the 'rapid' and the 'in depth' examinations.

The last chapter describes a method of measuring muscle strength by means of a modified sphygmomanometer device. This method is widely used for measuring grip strength. Curiously, this application is not described. Normal values are not given and validation of the method is not mentioned in the text or the references.

The editor decided to exclude features of spinal cord, nerve root, and peripheral nerve lesions (apart from carpal tunnel), though such conditions frequently enter the differential diagnosis of rheumatological cases and form an integral part of the management of such patients in this country. In view of the wide possible variability of normal

joints in different individuals there is insufficient emphasis on the assessment of unilateral lesions by comparison with the other side.

Several common features and procedures have been omitted, notably the isometric testing of muscles to detect rotator cuff lesions in the shoulder and in the hip and epicondylar lesions at the elbow. Heberden's and Bouchard's nodes, Baker's cyst, and hallux rigidus are not mentioned. The differentiation of a knee effusion from synovial proliferation by means of the patellar tap and the method of testing for plantar fasciitis are not described. Neither are mid-tarsal axial rotation of the foot and the 'window' sign of synovitis in the metatarsophalangeal joints.

Various features are poorly described or misleading. Twice, the mechanism involved in 'cracking' joints is explained wrongly; and pure testing of hip rotation is omitted. I would also disagree with the statement that thoracic spinal rotation can be tested in the standing subject.

This book could form the basis of an excellent second edition.

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**Rheumatology 85.** Eds. Peter M Brooks and John R York. Pp. 484. Dfl.250.00. Elsevier: Amsterdam. 1986.

*Rheumatology 85* comprises a series of articles covering a broad range of rheumatological topics, including much related basic science. The book is loosely based on the series of review lectures given at the 1985 ILAR conference in Sydney and is thus more a 'state of the art' review than a collation of the multitude of original reports presented at that meeting. It has been published barely a year after the event and includes some articles with references to work published or 'in press' in 1985 — tribute indeed to editorial tenacity! The price of such speed is the photolithographic reproduction of authors' original manuscripts which differ in format and typeface and are often difficult to read rapidly. The overall impression is unattractive.

The articles vary in approach and style: none is outstanding, though I was interested to read those dealing with repetitive strain injury, a topic more of us will have to grapple with in the near future, I fear. The inclusion of a few brief chairman's comments adds little except to remind the reader that the book purports to be a congress report.

I approached this 500 page, £65.00 tome with some trepidation and emerge from the experience not really convinced that it has added much original information to the already vast rheumatological literature. If someone is looking for an update it bears consideration, but I would not recommend its automatic purchase either by individuals or for departmental libraries.

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