

Book review

Rehabilitation of the Hand. By C. B. WYNN PARRY. 3rd ed., 1973. Pp. 354, 149 figs, 19 tab., index. Butterworths, London (£9.00)

The quality of the third edition ensures that this book will remain an authoritative guide to the management of the disabled hand.

Dr. Wynn Parry's and his co-authors' wealth of practical experience is apparent from the presentation of the practical details, enlivened by numerous case histories. There is a useful introductory chapter on the functional anatomy of the hand which would have been improved by more diagrams.

The management of nerve and tendon lesions is described comprehensively; causes of injury and surgical procedures are considered together with details of re-education and assessment. Brachial plexus palsies are discussed as well as peripheral nerve lesions. There is a useful account of the construction and use of spring wire finger splints and a description of the rationale and application of proprioceptive facilitation techniques.

The section entitled 'The Stiff Hand' covers burns, crush injuries, fractures, vascular problems, and partial amputation. There is also an account of what can and cannot be achieved by active treatment of the spastic upper limb. There is an excellent and well-illustrated chapter on the principles and practice of electromyography in which out-dated techniques are firmly rejected.

Dr. Brewerton and Mr. Lettin present a positive approach to the management of the rheumatoid hand. A timely warning against excessive exercise in the presence of active disease is balanced by a discussion of the proper place of splinting. The authors appreciate that, to the patient, the hands have an important aesthetic as well as functional role. The short account of rheumatoid hand surgery covers the more commonly used surgical procedures without making undue claims for results.

This is a book full of diverse and valuable information, well presented, and even the appropriate and pleasing dust-cover is worthy of comment.

A. KAY

Note

Chair of Rheumatology at the London Hospital Medical College

The title of Professor of Rheumatology has been conferred on Dr. H. L. F. Currey, M. Med., F.R.C.P., in respect of his position at the London Hospital Medical College. Dr. H. L. F. Currey graduated from the University of Cape Town in 1950 and came to this country in 1962, subsequently holding appointments in rheumatology at Hammersmith Hospital, London and at the London Hospital; he also worked for a time with Dr. Ziff in the U.S.A. His research interests include immunological aspects of clinical and experimental arthritis and immunosuppressive therapy of rheumatoid disease. He has been Associate Editor of the *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases* since 1971.