

Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases

A journal of clinical rheumatology and connective tissue research

This journal, founded by the Empire Rheumatism Council, now the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research in Great Britain and the Commonwealth, is also supported by the Heberden Society.

Advice to contributors

Communications This journal exists to publish work on all aspects of rheumatology and disorders of connective tissue. Laboratory as well as clinical studies are welcome. In addition brief communications, for example reports of single cases, will be printed if of exceptional interest.

Papers, which will be accepted on the understanding that they have not been and will not be published elsewhere and are subject to editorial revision, should be addressed to The Editor, *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, Bute Gardens, London W6 7DW. Each author must sign the covering letter as evidence of consent to publication.

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ligaments and degenerative and inflammatory arthritides suggest that the procedure is less valuable in these conditions than other means of examination. Nonetheless the enthusiastic approach of an expert is clearly evident and makes enjoyable reading.

In the main the text is easy to read and the format of the book is excellent for quick reference. For anyone who wishes to develop the technique of knee arthrography this book will prove invaluable.

D. B. YATES

Equipment for the Disabled. 4th edn. **Disabled Child.** Pp. 82. **Hoists, Walking Aids.** Pp. 64. £2.40 each. By E. R. Wilshere, 1980. Available from: Equipment for the Disabled, 2 Foredown Drive, Portslade, Brighton.

These 2 illustrated books follow the excellent idea and format of the series on equipment for the disabled published from Mary Marlborough Lodge, Oxford. They offer full lists of equipment; the illustrations are small but clear, with many showing patients utilising the equipment described. The introductory and assessment notes are excellent for teaching, giving clear guidelines on the transfer problems of disabled patients as well as describing the hoists and walking aids available to overcome these problems. A problem solving approach is used which ensures rapid finding of the solution to any particular problem about which one consults the book. In the hoist section many of the pros and cons of the different items are now considered, and there is much more helpful information than in previous editions.

With the aid of the book on *Hoists, Walking Aids* one should be able to choose the correct one for each patient and prevent the frequent problems that otherwise arise. In the section on walking aids the introduction and the description of the particular uses of different types of walking aids and standing frames are short but remarkably clear, and the subsequent list of different types of crutches and sticks is full. Too often only one type of walking frame is considered, but here the types are all illustrated and the wide choice is obvious.

The book on the *Disabled Child* is equally good, including discussion of furniture and beds for small or large children. The list of trolleys and go-carts to aid a young child's mobility is particularly notable and is not available anywhere else; the child's safety in a car is covered and the problems of wheelchair prescription for a child are detailed. More emphasis should have been given in that section to the child being assessed by staff used to the needs of a disabled child; the difficulties of wheelchair prescription in children are not as strongly emphasised as they should be. Incontinence aids, eating aids, and means of overcoming dressing problems are well covered, but one of the most useful sections is that on communication aids for the disabled child, ranging from simple modifications to pens up to a complex electronic typewriter. Without a list such as this many staff will be aware of only one or two possibilities for the child; again more emphasis could be given to the child being assessed by experienced staff with a whole range of equipment available. This list makes all aware of the different possibilities, but without much experience it will not enable the equipment to be matched to the child's residual ability.

Altogether these 2 books are excellent. The whole series of 11 books should be available in every rehabilitation department.

C. J. GOODWILL

Note

3rd Egyptian Conference of Rheumatology

The 3rd Egyptian Conference of Rheumatology will be held in Cairo on 2-5 March 1983. Details from the chairman: Dr T. Hadidi, PO Box 260, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt.

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