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Book review

A Back Pain Bibliography. Ed. B. Wyke. Pp. 463. £17.50. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books): London. 1983.

The literature on most conditions can usually be found in a few specific journals dedicated to a particular field of medicine, but information on back pain can come from almost any discipline, which makes it very difficult to screen for relevant articles. This book is entirely dedicated to listing over 6000 references to back pain, sorted under 13 headings ranging through basic sciences and clinical medicine. The references come from the collections of 5 major research centres, each ensuring a different scope of interest. The present volume covers up to and includes

1979, and the majority are English language publications. Though some early references are given, a whole section dedicated to historical references would be fascinating.

It is intended that supplements should update the work every 3 years. I feel that the next one along with a historical section could with benefit include a list of university degree dissertations on back pain topics, as the detail in such work is often of great help in the preliminary stages of designing research projects.

Even with the available information retrieval from computerised sources this bibliography is a most relevant and essential handbook for all those who study and practise in the field of back pain.

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