cerned might conceivably regress to the 'preoperational' level of thought as regards all matters specifically relating to his illness.

If clinicians are to be able to tackle the problem of explaining JCA to their young patients with any degree of confidence, simple and reliable means of identifying the child's level of cognitive development in relation to the disease specifically must be found. For this reason, the authors are currently engaged in further work aimed at establishing such means, and at testing the effectiveness of different verbal, written, and pictorial methods of describing juvenile chronic arthritis to young patients of different ages.

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Book review

Clinical Orthopaedic Examination. 2nd Edn. By Ronald McRae. Pp. 231. £8.25. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1983.

Medical orthopaedics covers a wide range of conditions that may be referred to the orthopaedic surgeon or rheumatologist depending on local conditions, in particular clinical pressures and consultant interest. The inadequacy of undergraduate teaching in both subjects means that systematic examination methods may not have been learnt and understood, and hence the application of standard tests and the interpretation of clinical findings may be poor.

This book, illustrated with some 900 line drawings and radiographs, will provide an excellent basic text for the unit house officer (and a useful reminder for the consultant). The initial impression is of a somewhat frightening

catalogue of tests and signs, but taken in stages it is found to be systematic and comprehensive, emphasising the anatomical basis with the conditions described in a brief commentary and illustrated by radiographs and drawings. The book concludes with a 68 question and answer radiographic quiz.

The rheumatologist might reasonably suggest that the inclusion of many of his specific questions and physical signs such as proximal interphalangeal joint circumference and measurement indices such as pain scales and articular indices would have added considerably to the value of the book without significantly increasing the number of pages. Further, the problems of interpretation of some tests and the potential inaccuracies of tape measurement are ignored. These are minor criticisms. This is an excellent book for the ward or clinic shelf; I recommend you buy it.

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