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Book review

Hypermobility of Joints. By P. Beighton, R. Grahame, H. Bird. Pp. 178. £29.00. Springer-Verlag: London. 1983.

It is unusual to find that one has read a book from cover to cover, has learned a great deal, has benefited from the authors' success in bringing together the many aspects of the subject, and has enjoyed the clarity and brevity of presentation, while finding little if anything which merits criticism. This volume has satisfied all these points, and the authors are to be congratulated on the undoubted success of their work in producing this comprehensive account of the hypermobility syndrome. As they point out, the hypermobile individual acting as a contortionist has been known

since ancient times. However, the scientific and medical implications of hypermobility have been realised and investigated only in the last 50 years and particularly in the last two decades. The present understanding of collagen abnormalities and their association with other conditions are well described. From a practical point of view diagnosis, prevalence, and clinical features are comprehensively and well covered. The 30 pages of clinical accounts of patients with the hypermobility syndrome are most valuable.

This monograph is an essential volume for all rheumatology and orthopaedic libraries and also deserves a place in medical libraries in general in view of the frequency of the syndrome, the overlap with other conditions, and its many and varied manifestations.

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