

528 Correspondence, Book review, Notes

of Colitis and Crohn's Disease, and the Bicentenary Fund of the General Hospital, Birmingham.

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Book review

Rheumatoid Arthritis. By P D Utsinger, N J Zvaifler, G E Ehrlich. Pp. 934. US\$ 67.50. Lippincott: Philadelphia. 1985.

In the Preface the editors of this 1000 page textbook describe it as 'a compilation of the basic and applied knowledge about rheumatoid arthritis, relevant to clinicians', and certainly every aspect is comprehensively covered, from minute details of cellular interactions to discussion of the 'rheumatoid personality'. Despite 75 contributors (all but three coming from North America) the style is reasonably consistent throughout, and the book is well produced with many good quality photographs, including a successful demonstration of the bulge sign, for detecting a small effusion of the knee! Much in the book will interest researchers, rheumatologists in training, and paramedical professionals, and its very large number of references (over 5000), a good proportion of which were written in the 1980s, make it an excellent source of material for further study and research. A few inconsistencies exist in the depth to which topics are discussed; aetiology and pathogenesis are extensively covered,

whereas amyloidosis has relatively scant attention, and a whole chapter for apheresis is more space than it deserves. Further, the text is geared to a North American readership, with a fairly large section devoted to legislative and economic considerations (some of which are relevant to the UK), and a chapter on childhood arthritis follows the American rather than the British classification. My main criticism, however, concerns repetition. As each chapter has been designed to be read independently there is a great deal of overlap and redundant points. The editors feel that 'redundancy adds to the value of the text', but my feeling is that it adds to the weight of the book! With stricter editing and good cross referencing the text could have been reduced by a third, especially the clinical section. Although the price is reasonable considering the quality of the production, I suspect that sales in Europe will be limited.

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Notes

Clinical metrology applied to rheumatic diseases

A course in clinical metrology applied to rheumatic diseases will be held at the Royal Bath Hospital, Harrogate, under the auspices of the University of Leeds from 1 to 12 September 1986. The course is designed to attract nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and basic scientists who wish to improve their skills in clinical aspects of rheumatology research. A Certificate of Attendance will be issued by the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

The course fee is £50. Support grants of up to £200 may be available from the ARC for those committed to rheuma-

tology research who do not have access to alternative funds. Further information from Dr D A Bird, Royal Bath Hospital, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 2PS. Applications should be submitted by 30 June 1986.

European Rheumatology Research Workshop

The next workshop will be held on Friday-Sunday, 6-8 March 1987 at the Normandy Hotel, Renfrew, Scotland. Inquiries to Dr R D Sturrock, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, University Department of Medicine, Royal Infirmary, 10 Alexandra Parade, Glasgow G3 1 2ER.