

Book reviews

International Back Pain News. Issue No. 1, July 1986; an A4 sized newspaper, Pp. 8. Three issues per year, published by International Back Pain Society, annual subscription fee £25. Secretariat: 36 Howletts Lane, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 7RS.

In November 1985 the first meeting for this new society was held in Vienna, and since then the society has held one day seminars on 'the lumbar spine and back pain' in Copenhagen, The Hague, and London. This first issue of the news sheet covers the main themes of these meetings. Letters and short articles of interest to the members are to be included in future issues. This issue has a research review section in which 20 articles from different journals are summarised presenting findings and opinions, rather than criticising the content or methods. Few journals concentrate on back pain problems and most of the literature on the subject is spread across a large number of publications. It is hoped that this review section will help readers keep abreast of the recent literature.

The society's advisory council consists of two orthopaedic surgeons, two neurologists, a pathologist, and a specialist in industrial medicine and was instigated by rheumatologist Professor M Jayson. The intent was to 'strive to improve communication of advances in knowledge and practice to all concerned with back pain and help to further advances in the understanding of back pain'.

This first edition suggests that the International Back Pain Society has got off to a good start which bodes well for the meetings planned for Hong Kong and Peking, Montreux, and Amsterdam in successive years.

It is hoped that the formation of this new society and the publication of its news sheet will help to focus further attention on this area of acute and chronic rheumatic morbidity.

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Equipment for the Disabled: Disabled Child. By G M Cochrane and E R Wilshere. Pp. 89. £3.95+85p p&p (UK); £8.50+£1.25 p&p (overseas). Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre: Headington, Oxford. 1986.

This book is one in a series entitled 'Equipment for the Disabled', and is designed to provide information for professionals and families who may require a special piece of equipment. A collection of equipment commonly prescribed for children with special needs has been gathered. The book can be divided into four categories: mobility, furniture, activities of daily living, and leisure.

Each section gives a summary of 'points to consider' in assessing a piece of equipment for a child. Nevertheless, it is considered good practice to try out the equipment with the child before prescribing it, as each child is an individual.

For each aid/piece of equipment there is a picture accompanied by a brief description of the structure, feature, function, and suitability of usage. The price and the address of the manufacturer are also provided.

The book focuses more on mobility and walking aids, rather than giving a comprehensive selection of all aids. The authors suggest the reader refers to other books for the disabled (e.g., personal care, etc) for sections concerned with activities of daily living. It would have been useful if more commercially available mobility equipment had been included, the section on leisure activities expanded, and an additional section on aids commonly used by children in educational settings provided.

The book is useful as a guide book in selecting appropriate equipment and providing information about other books and addresses of agencies to contact for further details.

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Notes

Relapsing polychondritis

Mr C Ashworth (51 Croft Avenue, Altofts, Normanton, West Yorkshire WF6 2JP) is forming a self help group for patients with this disease and would be grateful if doctors could refer any interested patients to him.

International Waaler conference on rheumatoid factors

A conference will be held on 10-13 December 1987 in Bergen, Norway to mark the 50th anniversary of the discovery by Dr Erik Waaler of rheumatoid factors. Laboratory and clinical aspects will be covered. Closing

date for registration: June 1987. Further information from Dr E Munthe, Department of Rheumatology, The Deacons' Hospital, PO Box 23, Vinderen, N-0319 Oslo 3, Norway.

Second international symposium on the pathogenesis of ankylosing spondylitis and rheumatoid arthritis

This symposium will be held at the Middlesex Hospital on the 14 and 15 April 1987. Registration £100. Inquiries to Dr Alan Ebringer, Bloomsbury Rheumatology Unit, The Middlesex Hospital, London W1P 9PG, UK.