

devoted to the surgery of arthritis, and one of the greatest advances in the management of rheumatic diseases in the last quarter of a century has been the evolution of a close working relationship between orthopaedic surgeons and rheumatologists and their acknowledged interdependence in the cooperative management of potentially long term disabling conditions, particularly rheumatoid disease, from the earliest stages. Surely the field of locomotor disorders has become too vast to be encompassed satisfactorily by a single author, and as it stands this textbook cannot be unreservedly recommended for use by anyone who has not already received significant exposure to the medical aspects of the locomotor diseases. It is to be hoped that in preparing the next edition the author will co-opt an experienced rheumatologist to assist him with the relevant parts of the text, thus converting an excellent book with a number of niggling and avoidable errors into an impeccable primary reference volume.

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Dupuytren's Disease. 2nd Edn. Eds. J T Hueston and R Tubiana. Pp. 210. £35.00. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1986.

Dupuytren's disease is a major cause of mainly manual disability in peoples of European stock and particularly those with blue eyes. Thus it is interesting that recent studies in Japan have shown the disease to be common there in older age groups, though the proportion of male to female patients is greater there than in Europe.

As it is generally considered that medical treatment is largely ineffective the tendency is to think only of surgical intervention (or regard the condition as untreatable; patients are quite often still so advised despite excellent results when treatment is carried out by competent hand surgeons, with the proviso that recurrence may occur).

This monograph considers the subject in wide detail, the text being divided into three sections—anatomy, aetiology and pathology, and the problems of surgery—each roughly a third of the book. Thirty three contributors present a very broad approach to the study of the condition.

Although this book is obviously of prime importance to hand surgeons treating the condition from an essentially mechanical point of view, considerable advances made in knowledge of the disease process are evident since the first edition some 10 years ago. Owing to this greater understanding, interesting linkages with other conditions have been made which may eventually offer more medical approaches to treatment in the future. The controversial use of vitamin E, often dismissed but seemingly useful in some cases, is not considered, nor are the biochemical blood changes, but the excellence of the study should make fascinating reading for all involved in the broad field of rheumatology. I hope that the book will find a place in the

libraries of most rheumatology departments. Perhaps this would stimulate a wider approach to the study of a fascinating and often physically disabling disease entity.

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Soft Tissue Rheumatic Pain: Recognition, Management, Prevention. 2nd Edn. By R P Sheon, R A Moskowitz, V M Golding. Pp. 332. US\$ 46.75. Lea and Febiger: Philadelphia. 1987.

Some rheumatologists, finding no interest in soft tissue disorders, content themselves with expensive investigations in order to exclude systemic disease, and, similarly, some orthopaedic surgeons finding nothing to operate on, leave it at that and send the patient to a physiotherapist. They would do well to read this valuable book and to experience the satisfaction of making a clinical diagnosis.

In my young days the *Textbook of Orthopaedic Medicine: Vol I: Diagnosis of Soft Tissue Lesions* by Cyriax was a 'must' and, indeed, still is. The years go by, however, and the book under review is more up to date, describing diagnostic and treatment techniques and with an excellent list of references.

Disorders are dealt with regionally. Emphasis is put on the important points in the history and the particular signs to be elicited. I especially liked the lists of 'danger signs' to alert the clinician to serious conditions, such as infection and neoplasia, and the lists of dos and don'ts for joint protection.

I did not agree with everything in the chapter on low back pain and thought it a pity that no mention was made of Wadell's inappropriate signs. It is also a pity that the excellent introductory chapter, 'An overview of diagnosis and management', should have the section on the impact of musculoskeletal pain on society physically interrupted by 12 pages of anatomical diagrams.

I strongly recommend this beautifully presented and illustrated book to every rheumatology department. For me, it does not completely replace Cyriax but will sit beside it on the shelf.

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Anti-Inflammatory Compounds. Clinical Pharmacology Series. Vol. 9. Edited by W R Nigel Williamson. Pp. 504. US\$ 107.50. Marcel Dekker: New York. 1987.

This is the ninth volume in an occasional series of reviews on topics of current interest in clinical pharmacology. It draws on authors from industry and academia.

A brief chapter reviewing rheumatic disorders will seem idiosyncratic to clinicians, though the next chapter by Dudley Hart, reviewing the range of antirheumatic drugs