

Book reviews

Clinical Disorders of the Shoulder. By Lipmann Kessel and Ian Bayley. Pp. 244. £50.00. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1986. ISBN 0443 034311.

The second edition of this excellent book based on many years of clinical practice is a worthy tribute to its senior author, the late Lipmann Kessel. While, as expected, it reflects an increasing interest in the field of shoulder surgery, it can also be recommended to the physician as a well presented account of the diagnosis and management of patients with shoulder problems. The illustrations have been updated and are in general of very high quality. The clarity of the chapters on anatomy, biomechanics, and examination of the shoulder will be of value to all clinicians. This clear presentation continues throughout the sections on differential diagnosis, but with some bias towards conditions where surgery may be indicated. The techniques of arthrography, arthroscopy, and computed tomographic scanning are discussed, but it is good to see these judged as no replacement for careful clinical evaluation. Rheumatologists will be surprised by the authors' dismissal of shoulder-hand syndrome as 'an extreme manifestation of cervical spondylosis with nerve root irritation'. References at the end of the text do not always reflect recent published work on the subject, for example in frozen shoulder, which is surprising in a second edition. With these exceptions, however, this book will continue to prove of value to anyone confronted by the problem shoulder.

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Nursing Care of Rheumatic Patients. By J M Moll, M Lee. Pp. 446. £17.95. Croom Helm: Beckenham, Kent. 1987. ISBN 0-7099-4691-0.

This book is 'about the principles and practice of nursing care in rheumatology and is based on the central idea that managing patients with rheumatological disorders depends on a team approach . . .'

As the preface says the book is divided into four parts, the first concerning the role of the nurse in a variety of settings in which rheumatological patients are encountered. The second section deals with general nursing procedures in a rheumatological context, i.e., the nursing process, communication with the patient, patient education, technical aids and equipment, bathing in hospital, and other aspects of patient care in hospital. It includes sections considering the impact of a rheumatological disease on various procedures such as venepuncture.

Part III provides general information and advice orientated towards a system by system approach. Finally, part IV gives standard information on the diagnosis and management of specific disorders.

It might have been more logical to have put this section first. I cannot think it easy for the young nurse to know *why* she must modify manoeuvres or *what* disease causes which functional and practical difficulties that require her intervention.

It is good, however, to see attention being paid to the nursing implications of a common group of diseases, and it is good to know that it is recognised that they will have implications for ward design and the functioning of a ward. It would have been even better had a suggested design for a wheelchair toilet or bathroom been incorporated in the book, so that there would no longer be an excuse for rheumatological patients having so many environmental and other obstacles to overcome in hospital.

Some of the information in this book is very basic: it would have been better to expand information on joint protection, patient education, and aids and equipment. A greater occupational therapy and physiotherapy input would have been helpful, particularly in helping the nurse pursue her analysis of the patients' problems and possible solutions. Such general chapters might have better enabled the reader to carry over information from one area to another, for the principles of management at home do not differ greatly from those in hospital, even though the functions required of the patient at home are more numerous and more complex.

This may be a useful book and one which it is helpful to browse through. There are perhaps others that might have a place on the bookshelf of a busy ward.

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Lecture Notes on Immunology. By Gordon Reeves. Pp. 197. £8.50. Blackwell: Oxford. 1987. ISBN 0-632-00776-1.

This pocket-size paperback of 200 pages belies its compact size and casual title of 'Lecture Notes' as it proves to be an up to date, comprehensive textbook of immunology. Indeed, Professor Reeves successfully achieves his stated aim 'to provide a concise statement covering the basic facts and concepts that are essential for a first understanding of immunology and its relevance to medicine and allied disciplines'.

The book is divided into two sections. The first, 'Immunity and the immune system', leads the reader in