23–27 Oct American College of Rheumatology meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
 Contact: American College of Rheumatology, Mark Andrejeski, Executive Vice President, 17 Executive Park Drive, NE, Suite 480, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, USA. Tel: 404 633 3777. Fax: 404 633 1870

In 1995

26–31 Mar Fourth international conference on systemic lupus erythematosus, Jerusalem, Israel
 Contact: Fourth International Conference on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel

Book reviews

Clinical Examination in Rheumatology. Michael Doherty, John Doherty. (Pp 144; £12.50.) London: Wolfe Publishing Ltd, 1992. ISBN 0 7234 1685 0.

Clinical Examination in Rheumatology is a family book. It has been inspired by Dr Doherty's fraternity of medical students at Nottingham, the illustrations are provided by a Canadian relation, and one needs little imagination to work out who did the modelling (the glasses give it away in some instances).

In the preface the author states how the teaching of clinical skills in rheumatology has dramatically lagged behind the emerging importance of this group of diseases in society today. Indeed, musculoskeletal clinical skills are poorly represented in all the major rheumatology textbooks and the shorter textbooks that are popular with medical students. There are, however, useful sections to be found in the *Manual of Rheumatology and Outpatient Orthopaedic Disorders* (Beary, Christian, Johansen, eds, Littlebrown) and *Clinical Examination* (Talley and O'Connor; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific), if the discerning purchaser wants to make comparisons.

However, the book compares well and I enjoyed reading it. The book, 10 chapters long, contains a massive 349 line diagrams. The opening chapter is an introduction to the musculoskeletal system which gives a good overview of structure and function of joints and common symptoms. The author then takes us through a musculoskeletal screening examination (recently reported in the *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*¹), which is an excellent introduction for medical students and for those that need their examination techniques refreshed. The next eight chapters systematically cover the hand to the ankle and foot, with the temporomandibular joint tagged on at the end. At the end of each chapter there is a very useful summary box, which is probably destined for copying so that it can be carried onto the ward as the book is too large to fit into a coat pocket.

The publishers have done reasonably well with the layout of the text and generally there is a good hierarchical system of headings, which makes for easy reading. At times, however, there are long tracks of text (shoulder and spine for example) through which one has to persevere.

With modern printing technology I was surprised to find total reliance upon line diagrams, which I must admit in some instances are very attractive and informative (the hand for example), but perhaps the second edition will include some colour photographs and computer graphics. I was intrigued

at the use of a dismembered knee as an aide-memoire, adding surrealistic quality to two pages in the opening section.

At £12.50 I have no hesitation in recommending this book for medical students, family practitioners, and specialists as it provides both good basic educational text and a useful reference when you forget how to carry out certain manoeuvres, such as the modified Schober's or Slocum's tests.

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1 Doherty M, Dacre J, Dieppe P, Snaith M. The 'GALS' locomotor screen. *Ann Rheum Dis* 1992; 51: 1165–9.

Aches and Pains: Living with Arthritis and Rheumatism. Janie Hampton. (Pp 69; £2.) Teaching Aids at Low Cost (TALC), PO Box 49, St Albans, Herts AL1 4AX: Oxford Health Publications. 1992. ISBN 0-9518-9140-5.

This book has been produced by ILAR to provide information for people suffering from or caring for those with rheumatic disease throughout the world.

It briefly covers a wide range of topics: from anatomy of a joint, description of a variety of conditions to general advice on dealing with everyday activities of living. Although containing much valuable information, too many topics are covered. I feel that fewer more common conditions — for example, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, and lupus, should have been covered in more detail.

Information given to patients/carers needs to be relevant to their condition and to resources that are available locally. The book is written from a Western perspective with the occasional reference to how alterations might be made to meet local needs — for example, 'neck rests carved from wood and bicycle inner tubes for exercising arms or legs'. The broad spectrum of treatments available world wide ranges from resting joints in splints made from used plastic bottles to the use of heated pools for the treatment of painful swollen joints. There is little purpose in discussing with people in third world countries what is available in developed areas. It is likely to cause them to be negative, which will result in a poorer quality of life.

The language used while being clear and simple promotes a negative outlook and is too strong: 'most people with lupus live normal lives but it can kill you after a few years'. The chapter on medicines also tells 'they could kill you if not taken exactly as prescribed'. Also the illustrations depict rather sad weary looking people. Our aim of treatment must be to achieve maximum comfort and maintain independence. Patients will not comply with treatments if they feel their future is hopeless.

The book includes a list of 15 useful addresses, 14 between Great Britain and the United States of America with one in India. This is not worldwide representation and would be best omitted entirely.

The aim of this book is to be admired, but I feel it has not achieved a balanced worldwide perspective.

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