

In 1994

- 19–22 Apr BSR XIth AGM, Brighton
Contact: British Society for Rheumatology, Lorraine Johnson, Conference Manager, 3 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB. Tel: 071 224 3739. Fax: 071 224 0156
- 28–31 May 5th International symposium for health professionals in rheumatology, Lillehammer, Norway
Contact: Lillehammer Arrangement AS, PO Box 85, Jernbanegt 2, N-2601 Lillehammer, Norway. Tel: 47 62 60601. Fax: 47 62 56585
- 1–4 June 25th Scandinavian congress of rheumatology, Lillehammer, Norway
Contact: Lillehammer Arrangement AS, PO Box 85, Jernbanegt 2, N-2601 Lillehammer, Norway. Tel: 47 62 60601. Fax: 47 62 56585
- 8–11 June VIII EULAR symposium: 'Vasculitis', Istanbul, Turkey
Contact: A & B Public Relations, Valikonagi Caddesi, 46/6 Nisantasi 80200, Istanbul, Turkey
- 18–23 Sep XI PanAmerican congress of rheumatology—Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil
Contact: Katia Prista de Queiroz, Rua Costa Pereira 9, Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro CEP 20511, Brazil. Tel: 021 2841642. Fax: 021 2642944
- 29 Sep–2 Oct 20th Symposium of the European Society for Osteoarthology, Bari, Italy
Contact: The Secretariat, 20th ESOA Symposium, c/o Centro Internazionale Congressi, Viale Papa Pio XII, 18, 70125 Bari, Italy
- 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 review

Occupational Musculoskeletal Disorders. Nordin M Hadler. (Pp 273; \$87.50.) New York: Raven, 1992. ISBN 0-88167-959-3.

Few professors in departments of medicine and microbiology/immunology have shut their laboratories and concentrated on patients with rheumatoid arthritis, backache, and arm pain. This monograph by one such is the fruit of his thinking, his review of published reports, and personal studies on incapacity. Dr Hadler leaves little doubt about his cynicisms, prejudices, and conclusions. The highly personalised writing is so enjoyable that the reviewer was prepared to be told we must 'process the predicament' and to look up the meaning of a Sisyphian task (p 168).

After a biographical preface and an introduction summarised in two algorithms about how a person deals with the problem of musculoskeletal symptoms, the book is in three major sections. The first deals with the predicament of musculoskeletal morbidity; the second with patients who have regional musculoskeletal symptoms; and the third with claimants who have musculoskeletal disability. The central section, discussing neck problems, upper and lower extremity regional musculoskeletal illness, and entrapment neuropathy, will be the most familiar in approach to rheumatologists, but the incisive thinking of the other two sections is equally worth considering. Indeed, the book would be worth reading for the critical review of fibromyalgia alone. Those involved in medicolegal problems will appreciate the discussion on the role of trauma in the development of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and spondylarthritides. The fascinating final chapters deal with the historical development of social security in the USA. Politicians, vested interests (industrialists and unions), clinicians, and paramedical workers would all benefit from reading this work; regrettably only the last two groups are likely to be influenced.

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