



## Book Reviews

### Stoke Mandeville Road to the Paralympics

By Joan Scruton, MBE

*Published by: PeterHouse Press, Brill, Aylesbury, England.  
Available from Miss Joan Scruton, 90 Northumberland  
Avenue, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England, HP21 7HI.  
384 pp. £15.95 (\$30.95) including postage and packing.*

Joan Scruton was Ludwig Guttmann's Personal Secretary from the time that he founded the Spinal Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in 1944. This book details the founding of the Unit, the early development, transfer of the Unit from the Ministry of Pensions to the National Health Service and the founding of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia.

Having set the scene the rest of the book concentrates on the development of sport for the paralysed, first as therapy, then recreation and eventually competitive sport and elite competitive sport. The Paralympic movement is now so well known and developed that it is really interesting to learn the small seeds from which this movement arose. Joan Scruton details these developments from local games to national games to the International Stoke Mandeville Games and the first Paralympics in Rome in 1958. The complex organizational matters behind the development of sport for the paralysed are very fully documented. All those with an interest in sport for the paralysed will find this a fascinating book.

Hans Frankel

### Genetics of Neurological Disorders

Author: Michael Barritser

*Published by: Oxford University Press: 443pp.  
ISBN: 0 19 26 28143 Price: £49.50*

This is the third edition of Genetics of Neurological Disorders. Since the first edition the nomenclature has altered and the number of diseases forming the subject of clinical neurogenetics has enlarged enormously as a result of developments in molecular biology. In some conditions mutations within the same gene may cause identical disease in terms of age of onset and severity, but in other conditions, different mutations within the same gene result in subdivisions based on the age of onset. Some gene defects may be at the same locus but produce quite different clinical conditions.

This new edition is based on the London Neurogenetic and Dysmorphology databases which allows the possibility of keying – in any combination of clinical signs in order to get a differential diagnosis and even the rarest of syndromes may be accessed in this way. The book consists of 27 chapters dealing with the whole range of neurological disorders. Clearly the book is not the first line of reference for someone dealing with spinal cord injury, but it is essential for anybody who deals with spinal cord disorders. Each condition is dealt with succinctly in terms of a clinical abstract, followed by the genetics of the disorder and then, in most cases, a note on counselling. There is an outstanding bibliography.

The book is strongly recommended (at a very reasonable price) as a reference book in any spinal unit.

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