

Book Reviews

Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica. Knud Jansen Birthday Issue. Edited by K. Harry SØRENSEN
Volume 44, No. 4-5, 1973. Copenhagen: Munksgaard.

This enlarged number deserves special notice. It is a Birthday Issue "dedicated to Knud Jansen on his sixtieth birthday, as a tribute to his outstanding contributions as editor, head of department, president and organizer, and in recognition of the inspiration he has been to fellow workers in all fields of orthopaedic surgery".

In other parts of the world a distinguished orthopaedic surgeon, long since retired, may have to pass the allotted span by ten long years before receiving such an expression of esteem. Knud Jansen's colleagues and friends, however, have preferred to give him the equivalent of a standing ovation while he is still in his prime.

The *Festskriftet* comprises twenty-six articles sent from four Scandinavian and five other countries, all written in fluent English and most carefully produced. It could be that Knud Jansen, now heavily committed to the task of organising the next congress of the International Society to be held in Copenhagen in 1975, will derive special pleasure and strength of purpose from the papers of those two determined men—Ernst Spira and Robert Merle d'Aubigné—who were so largely responsible for the success of the previous occasion in Israel at a time of mounting international tension.—Karl NISSEN.



Disproportionate Short Stature: Diagnosis and Management. By Joseph A. BAILEY, II, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Consultant in Orthopaedic Genetics, Medical Center, Hospital and Clinic, El Monte, California;
Hospital for Joint Diseases and Medical Center, New York. 16×24 cm. Pp. xvi+589, with
301 figures. Index. 1973. Philadelphia, London, Toronto: W. B. Saunders Company. Price £9-60.

The title of this book belies the fact that it is an important new addition to the growing number of books devoted primarily to generalised disorders of musculo-skeletal development, most of which give rise to dwarfism with disproportion between the trunk and limbs.

Most of the established books on these topics have been written by paediatricians, radiologists or geneticists. This is the first book since Sir Thomas Fairbanks's classic monograph to be written by an orthopaedic surgeon with the needs of an orthopaedic surgeon in mind. An introductory section deals with the assessment, diagnosis and overall management of individuals with short stature. Right from the beginning, he acknowledges the perennial problem of classification of these diseases, the difficulty being that each time a new classification or a new principle of classification is thought of, there are always some cases that do not seem to fit. The author divides disproportionate short stature conditions into two main groups. In group 1 are those who are absolutely short and disproportionate and includes achondroplasia, some of its variants, diastrophic dwarfism, metatrophic dwarfism, hypochondroplasia and, briefly some of the very rare varieties of dwarfism such as thanatophoric dwarfism and Devlin dwarfism which are usually lethal and therefore of only passing orthopaedic interest. Group 2 are described as spectrum short stature conditions, so called because the nature of their bony lesions, for example, of the metaphysis, of the epiphysis, or both together is similar but there is a varying spectrum of severity and abnormality and in the total alteration of stature and the degree of disproportion. In this group are included the metaphysial dysostoses, the mucopolysaccharidoses, the multiple epiphysial dysplasias and spondylo-epiphysial dysplasias. He also includes in this section, fragile bone diseases, kyphoscoliotic syndromes, lower body segment anomalies such as proximal femoral focal deficiency and mineral metabolic disturbances such as rickets and pseudo-hypoparathyroidism.