BOOK REVIEW

Title: FOOT AND ANKLE PAIN

Author: Rene Caillet, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Rehabilitative Medicine, University of Southern California, School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California

Publisher: F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia

Price: \$15 200 pages + XIII. Index. Illustrations

The author is a Professor and Head of the Rehabilitative Medicine in California (Physical Medicine). He has written no fewer than six books in the "Pain" series which range over most of the body.

I was very disappointed by "Hand Pain", about which I wrote a recent comment. (With such widespread coverage of a number of specialist subjects it is hardly surprising that there will have been some deficiencies.) Ankle pain is a very different kettle of fish. In this volume we are fortunate in that the author seems to have a special interest in the more distal extremity, for I found it a surprisingly comprehensive review of the foot and ankle for so small a book (200 pages).

The title really gives no guide as to the content which ranges over structural anatomy, biomechanics of walking and running and clinical examination of the area. Also covered are the common disorders, painful or otherwise, and the book provides a non-specialist with a guide to the recognition and treatment of most of the disorders likely to be encountered.

I would recommend this book to the general practitioner and to all those in professions allied to medicine that have to deal with ankle and foot problems, for it has been written in easily understood and assimilable English and contains illustrations that are clear and uncomplicated.

B. Helal

BOOK REVIEW

Title: WRITING SCIENTIFIC PAPERS IN ENGLISH

Authors: Maeve O'Connor and F. P. Woodford

Publishers: Pitman Medical, Tonbridge Wells, 1978

Price: £3.50 108 pages Soft cover

Every editor of every scientific journal will wish that this excellent little book were studied by each aspiring author who submits papers. The English language has replaced Latin as the language for international scientific communication, but authors in the UK will benefit greatly for the advice given, which will make the work of referees, editors and printers much easier. The authors are well known for their excellent publications from the Ciba foundation, and produced this book at the initiation of ELSE — the association of European Life Science Editors, whose best-known British representative is Dr. Stephen Lock, Editor of the British Medical Journal and the organiser of several meetings for editors of medical periodicals.

"Writing Scientific Papers in English" starts with advice on planning a project, whether a piece of experimental research, a review article or a series of case reports. The mechanism of writing the paper is given in detail, including selection of a journal to which it will be submitted, the choice of co-authors, statistical assistance, graphs and other illustrations. Copyright clearance, the author's responsibility, is described, and the necessity of writing, re-writing, having the final draft checked by a trusted and experienced colleague are all described. Correct checking of references, first when writing up the paper, and again before submitting it, is emphasised, and precise instructions to be given to the typist are included. The duties of the editor, the technical editor and the referees are specified (plus the advice sportsmen should obey — "do not argue with the umpire") and the mechanics of printing and proof-corrections are described. Useful lists of accepted abbreviations, units of measurement, and words or expressions best avoided complete the book. As an editor, I wish it were available in every research laboratory, library and clinical department.

H. E. Robson