Books Received

CLINICAL MR NEUROIMAGING: DIFFUSION, PERFUSION AND SPECTROSCOPY. 2005. Edited by Jonathan Gillard, Adam Waldman and Peter Barker. Published by Cambridge University Press. 827 pages. C$396 approx.

ENDOSCOPIC SPINE SURGERY AND INSTRUMENTATION. 2005. By Daniel H. Kim, Richard G. Fessler and John J. Regan. Published by Thieme. 352 pages. C$204 approx.

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IN EPILEPSY: NEUROIMAGING TECHNIQUES. SECOND EDITION. 2005. By Ruben I. Kuzniecky and Graeme D. Jackson. Published by Elsevier Academic Press. 442 pages. C$190 approx.

OPERATIVE EXPOSURES IN PERIPHERAL NERVE SURGERY. 2005. By Allen Maniker. Published by Thieme. 152 pages. C$155 approx.

THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF AUTISM. SECOND EDITION. 2005. Edited by Margaret L. Bauman and Thomas Kemper. Published by The Johns Hopkins University Press. 404 pages. C$114 approx.

THE NEW BRAIN SCIENCES: PERILS AND PROSPECTS. 2004. Edited by Dai Rees and Steven Rose. Published by Cambridge University Press. 301 pages. C$52 approx.

THE NEUROPATHOLOGY OF DEMENTIA. SECOND EDITION. 2004 **SECOND EDITION.** Edited by Margaret Esiri, Virginia M. - Y. Lee and John Q. Trojanowski. Published by Cambridge University Press. 578 pages. C$450 approx.

Book Reviews

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF EMERGENCY NEUROLOGY: HANDBOOK FOR EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS. 2003. Edited by Sid M . Shah and Kevin M. Kelly. Published by Cambridge University Press. 438 pages. C$75 approx.

This is a well-written, easy to read handbook. As the companion piece to the much more comprehensive "Emergency Neurology: Principles and Practice", it's focus seems to be on providing a brief, clinically focused review of common neurological disorders cared for by emergency physicians. As such, it is clearly written at with the non-neurologist in mind.

The book begins with brief reviews of the neurological examination, neuroradiology, EEG and lumbar puncture. The discussion of EEG findings is of very limited utility to the emergency physician, and I was disappointed to see no discussion or review of basic neuroanatomy. The bulk of the book is then devoted to short, focused reviews of common neurological presentations (weakness, vertigo, headache, etc.) and the most commonly seen neurological conditions seen in an emergency department setting. This is followed by several pediatric-specific topics, a section on pregnancy-related neurologic emergencies, an excellent discussion of neurotoxicology and finally a review of brain death.

Strengths of this book include an intuitive structure and fairly comprehensive list of topics covered. Chapters are short and easy to scan when looking for specific information. Another excellent feature is the shaded "Pearls and Pitfalls" box which completes each chapter and consists of bullet form take home points. Content is for the most part reliable and appropriately acknowledges areas of ongoing debate, such as the role of corticosteroids in spinal trauma. Some chapters are weaker than others, however, and I was surprised to see no mention of the use of dexamethasone in bacterial meningitis.

The biggest shortcoming of this book, however, is that it is unclear what kind of a resource it is meant to be for the practicing physician. As a textbook, it is too short and often too cursory to be relied upon as a comprehensive resource. For instance, when discussing the role of LP in the diagnosis of subarachnoid hemorrhage, reference is made to diagnosing xanthochromia by either visual inspection or photospectrometry, without any recognition of the significant difference in the sensitivity of these two tests. Similarly, as a "pocket manual" it fails to give the tangible guidance that is often needed in the management and disposition decisions required of emergency physicians. In the case of suspected SAH, for instance, no recommendations are given as to how to proceed if the LP results are equivocal or when to involve a neurosurgeon in a patient with a classic history and apparently negative workup. Similarly, when discussing MS, the authors discuss the various possible presentations of the disease, but make no mention of the need to search for UTI's in patients presenting with exacerbations.

As a basic textbook for the junior learner, this volume may be useful. As either a definitive reference or a point of care guide, I am unable to recommend it.

Ian Walker
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NEUROSCIENCE IN MEDICINE. SECOND EDITION. 2003 Edited by P. Michael Conn. Published by Humana Press. 723 pages. C$175 approx.

This is a second edition (first edition 1993) of a neuroscience text book that is written for graduate and medical students, but is also suitable for faculty as a reference work. Its 32 chapters provide a largely comprehensive overview of the human nervous system, with occasional reference to animal studies. Some chapters are appended by sections entitled "Clinical Correlations" that briefly overview one or more diseases relevant to the chapter.