

Book Reviews

DRUG FOR THE TREATMENT OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE. 1989. Edited by D.B. Calne. Published by Springer-Verlag. 559 pages. \$271 Cdn. approx.

This book is a multi-authored review of the medical management of Parkinson's disease using medications, up to early 1989. The strong points are the thoroughness of the review of pathology, neurochemical changes relevant to pharmacology, differential diagnosis, description of longitudinal trials of anti-oxidant agents, pharmacology of L-Dopa and its adverse side-effects. An extremely detailed review of lisuride is enclosed.

The weak points are the strictly pharmacological approach to a complex medico-social illness where adequate information to patients and families regarding prognosis, potential side-effects of available pharmacological treatments, importance of exercise programs and availability of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy for specific functional problems have not been dealt with. In terms of pharmacological management, there is a relative paucity of suggestions for autonomic dysfunction, specifically orthostatic hypotension, urological as well as gastro-intestinal dysfunction. New publications have already appeared, such as the results of the DATATOP study in the New England Journal edition of November 16, 1989, which changed the management of Parkinson's disease radically. Considering the steep price of the book (\$230.00 US) its lack of direct advice for day-to-day treatment of patients, it cannot be recommended for clinicians who deal with Parkinson's disease only occasionally. On the other hand, because of the excellent reviews on specific topics such as pathology in chapter 2, dealing with pathological sub-types of Parkinson's disease with particular emphasis on dementia aspects of the disease, the discussion of compensatory changes in the neurochemistry review found in chapter 6, the completeness of the review of differential diagnosis found in chapter 8, the discussion of study design for new clinical trials found in chapter 9, 10 and 11, the very detailed review of L-Dopa pharmacology in chapter 13 and its adverse side-effects in chapter 14, it is a precious tool for neurologists seeing many patients suffering from movement disorders, including residents and fellows. It is recommended thus to movement disorder clinics as a standard reference book.

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MEDICAL THERAPY OF ACUTE STROKE. 1989. Edited by Mark Fisher. Published by Darcel Dekker Inc. 294 pages. \$82 Cdn. approx.

Although several excellent monographs dealing with the management of epilepsy, movement disorders, and migraine have been published in the last decade, the rapid, and on occasion controversial therapies reported for patients with acute stroke has unfortunately received little critical attention. In this volume, the second in a series titled "Neurological disease and therapy", M Fisher and 21 other well established researchers in

the field of cerebrovascular disease have put together a comprehensive monograph on the management of stroke in 1989. The book is divided into three major sections.

- 1) Clinical and basic mechanisms (CH: 1-2).
- 2) Therapies (experimental and presently in use) for T.I.A.s, ischemic stroke and intra-cranial hemorrhage (CH: 3-14).
- 3) Practical approach to the evaluation and management of suspected acute stroke (CH: 15).

The conflicting and often confusing subject on the role of anticoagulants in acute stroke (Chapter 4) is very well reviewed and the indications for anticoagulation in T.I.A. and cerebral infarction are clearly defined. Likewise the chapter on the role of anti-platelet agents in T.I.A. and cerebral infarction is also well written. In addition to aspirin, other anti-platelet agents such as sulfipyrazone, dipyridamole and ticlopidine are also reviewed. The reader gets a good "inside" look at such new agents as calcium entry blockers, neuropeptides and thrombolytic therapies and hemorrhological aspects of stroke, subjects that have received little attention in the non-stroke literature. Although pertinent experimental research is reviewed in most chapters, a chapter dealing exclusively with current exciting research, such as the role of glucose or body temperature on development and protection from ischemia, would have been useful.

Overall the book is well written, has a good flow from one chapter to another, and the references are up to date and extensive though not overwhelming. The only criticism that might be entertained is that while percutaneous transluminal angioplasty is extensively reviewed, the editor fails to include a chapter on the role of carotid endarterectomy in the management of acute stroke. Even in a book entitled "Medical management of acute stroke" it would not seem out of place to offer guidelines and limitations for the use of this important procedure for patients with T.I.A.s and acute stroke.

This book is recommended for the general neurologist, internist and indeed all physicians who come in contact with the acutely ill stroke patient.

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FUNDAMENTALS OF EEG TECHNOLOGY. VOLUME 2. CLINICAL CORRELATES. 1989. By Fay S. Tyner, John R. Knott, W. Brem Mayer Jr. Published by Raven Press. 302 pages. \$70 Cdn. approx.

This book comes as the companion text to Fundamentals of EEG Technology Volume 1 Basic Principles and Methods by the same authors published by Raven Press 1983. It is intended to provide a comprehensive summary of clinical material the accomplished EEG technologist should understand, and as a guide for the appropriate EEG procedures to be followed for the more common clinical problems encountered. Both of these goals are quite adequately met in a clearly written concise text.