

much more. With some judicious pruning of clinical morsels and the addition of a more coherent account of the basic neurology, it would be an excellent text, which, by its approach, would fill a neurological need.

It is difficult to say exactly where this book should fit in the market in its present form. I could not recommend it as the only text for a medical student. The book needs to be read in its entirety to get hold of all the information that is presented on almost any major sub component of the nervous system. It is not possible to use it for quick revision of a subject as is the case in the more classically ordered texts. It will certainly be useful for rereading of basic material by students in their clinical years and after graduation. The approach used should be attractive at this level.

The book is easy to handle and the production and printing are good.

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DIAGNOSTIC DECISIONS IN NEUROLOGY. First edition. By Klaus Poeck. Published by Springer-Verlag. 168 pages. Cdn. \$23.00 approx.

The purpose of this book as stated by the author is to provide assistance in diagnosis at the bedside. The organization of this book is symptom based, and each of its forty-one chapters deals with a specific symptom. Although an index is provided, the chapter names consist of a symptom complex, and the chapters are arranged alphabetically. Symptoms such as ptosis and dementia are easily found. Other symptoms pose a more difficult problem, as chapters with names like "Abnormal Posture of the Head" (Chapter 1) or "Progressive Wasting of Hand Muscles" (Chapter 27) are also listed alphabetically. However, the reader can rapidly skim the forty-one chapter titles, and determine which best fits his patient's symptom.

Each chapter starts off with a list of diagnoses. After a short general introduction, each diagnosis is then briefly dealt with in a paragraph or two. For example, chapter 7 (Acute Unilateral Seventh Nerve Palsy) starts off with a list of ten diagnoses ranging from "idiopathic" to "Melkersson-Rosenthal Syndrome" and each is briefly dealt with. This organization of the book is potentially very useful, and indeed makes it a practical bedside resource. Some chapters, such as the one on vertigo, appear very helpful. Others, however, are somewhat artificial. For example, meningitis is dealt with primarily in the chapter "Impairment in Anteflexion of the Head". The chapter on headache does not mention meningitis.

The book is at times incomplete. The chapter entitled "Abnormal Posture of the Head" does not mention idiopathic torticollis or dystonia. Neither is torticollis listed in the index. Occasionally, information given in this book is somewhat misleading, as for example, the statement that 30% of patients with amaurosis fugax will suffer cerebral infarction within one year. Finally, the book at times suffers from poor English, as for example when the sural nerve is said to be "patent" on nerve biopsy.

The organization of this book is interesting and potentially useful in ensuring that possible diagnoses are not overlooked by the clinician. It would benefit, however, from some restructuring, particularly with regard to terminology used for the symptom complexes used for chapter titles. A more balanced

approach would also benefit subsequent editions. For example, in the chapter "First Epileptic Seizure in Adulthood", eleven causes are listed, but nowhere is it mentioned that even in adults presenting with their first seizure, no definite cause will be found in most patients. One of the strengths of this book is the emphasis placed on clinical diagnosis. Extensive radiological investigations are, where appropriate, discouraged as unnecessary.

In summary, this book is potentially useful primarily for medical students, interns and residents. It does have significant weaknesses as discussed above, and hopefully these will be dealt with in future editions.

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TICS AND RELATED DISORDERS. By A.J. Lees. Published by Churchill-Livingstone (Academic Press Canada). 276 pages. Cdn. \$72.00 approx.

The title of this book is slightly cryptic. The 'related disorders' include hyperekplexia, hyperactivity syndrome, schizophrenic stereotypes, focal dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, acute dyskinesia, chorea, levodopa induced dyskinesia, myoclonus. From this breadth of scope, an alternative title might have been 'Movement disorders other than Parkinsonism'.

The main value of this book is that unlike the numerous publications on a similar range of disorders, this is written by one neurologist, and represents his personal view and experience of these diseases. It is therefore much more readable than its multi-author counterparts. There are many erudite clinical morsels, such as reference to 'le gros ventre', 'Pisa syndrome', 'Latah' and 'Miryachit'.

The strength of this book is also, perhaps, its weakness, for by being a personal account it seems to represent the author's particular approach to various aspects of diagnosis and management. For example, in the treatment of Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome, surely an important section of this book, there is no mention of tetrabenazine. Indeed tetrabenazine does not even appear in the index, yet the evidence for its efficacy is published and in the opinion of this reviewer, it is the drug of choice for treating Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome.

In summary, this is a good book for anyone interested in movement disorders. It has the unusual quality of being enjoyable to read, and in view of its concise length, it makes an excellent companion for a long flight or a weekend of relaxation.

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PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY. First edition. Edited by Marvin A. Fishman. Published by Grune & Stratton, Inc., Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 355 pages. Cdn. \$72.00 approx.

At the present time there are several standard text books of pediatric neurology available. All treat the subject matter fairly extensively, sometimes exhaustively, and are clearly aimed primarily at neurologists and neurologic trainees. This book, a multi-author effort edited by Dr. Marvin Fishman, is intended primarily for pediatricians, family physicians and other health care practitioners who may come in contact with neurologically compromised children. The authors have made no attempt to generate an exhaustive compendium of pediatric neurological information but have produced a book of modest proportions