

Books Received

DUUS' TOPICAL DIAGNOSIS IN NEUROLOGY. 4TH EDITION. 2006. By Mathias Baehr, Michael Frotscher. Published by Thieme. 517 pages. C\$60 approx.

HANDBOOK OF NEUROSURGERY. SIXTH EDITION. 2006. By Mark S. Greenberg. Published by Thieme. 1016 pages. C\$96 approx.

NEUROSURGERY PRACTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. 2006. By Mark Shaya, Remi Nader, Anil Nanda. Published by Thieme. 240 pages. C\$48 approx.

PEDIATRIC NEUROVASCULAR DISEASE: SURGICAL ENDOVASCULAR AND MEDICAL MANAGEMENT. 2006. By Michael J. Alexander, Robert F. Spetzler. Published by Thieme. 224 pages. C\$180 approx.

CHALLENGING CASES IN SPINE SURGERY. 2006. By Muwaffak Abdulhak, Shaden Marzouk. Published by Thieme. 196 pages. C\$120 approx.

ADVANCED PEDIATRIC CRANIOCERVICAL SURGERY. 2006. By Douglas L. Brockmeyer. Published by Thieme. 152 pages. C\$156 approx.

HUMAN SEXUALITY. SECOND EDITION 2006. By Simon Levay, Sharon M. Valente. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 717 pages. C\$115 approx.

INSTANT NOTES IN NEUROSCIENCE. SECOND EDITION 2005. By Alan Longstaff. Published by Taylor & Francis. 468 pages. C\$41 approx.

ADVANCES IN NEUROLOGY. VOLUME 97 - INTRACTABLE EPILEPSIES. 2006. Edited by Warren T. Blume, Peter L. Carlen, Elout Starreveld, Samuel Wiebe, G. Bryan Young. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 595 pages. C\$240 approx.

NICOTINIC ACETYLCHOLINE RECEPTORS FROM MOLECULAR BIOLOGY TO COGNITION. 2005. By Jean-Pierre Changeux, Stuart J. Edelstein. Published by The John Hopkins University Press. 284 pages. C\$120 approx.

THE CIRCUITRY OF THE HUMAN SPINAL CORD: ITS ROLE IN MOTOR CONTROL AND MOVEMENT DISORDERS. 2005. By Emmanuel Pierrot-Deseilligny, David Burke. Published by Cambridge University Press. 642 pages. C\$230 approx.

SENSATION & PERCEPTION. 2006. By Jeremy M. Wolfe, Keith R. Kluender, Dennis M. Levi, Linda M. Bartoshuk, Rachel S. Herz, Roberta L. Klatzky, Susan J. Lederman. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 410 pages. C\$120 approx.

COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS OF EPILEPTIC ORIGIN IN CHILDREN. 2005. By Thierry Deonna, Eliane Roulet-Perez. Published by Cambridge University Press. 241 pages. C\$108 approx.

Book Reviews

THE A-Z OF NEUROLOGICAL PRACTICE: A GUIDE TO CLINICAL NEUROLOGY. 2005. By Roger A. Barker, Neil Colding, Dominic Rowe and Andrew J. Larner. Published by Cambridge University Press. 935 pages. Price C\$95.

This encyclopedic-style, paperback book measures 12.5 (h)x18.4(w)x3(d) cm, dimensions that would fit into most long white coat pockets. It is written by clinical neurologists in the UK and Australia and is intended for residents in training, but all neurologists could benefit from it.

As implied, topics are alphabetically organized (literally from abducens nerve palsy to zygomycosis) and are discussed in a standardized manner (when appropriate for the full treatment): pathophysiology, clinical features, investigation, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment, prognosis and references (usually 1-3). Cross references and related entities are listed whenever relevant.

Despite my intrinsic bias, I am impressed with the book. It is remarkably comprehensive in its terse treatment of the numerous, highly varied entities. I could not think of an entity that was not

covered. The organized structure is helpful, making the book useful for quick reviews. The entities that I know well are very adequately treated and good clinical judgment comes through in the information imparted. The book is a practical one for clinicians, but contains sufficient information on biochemical defects, gene abnormalities, pathology and mechanisms to give a reasonably complete picture. The discussions are balanced and the references are up-to-date, the most recent from 2003, likely reflecting delay to publication. None of the authors is a pediatric neurologist, but a strong effort is made to include various pediatric neurology entities in the same comprehensive manner.

As might be expected, there are disadvantages to this format. Topics cannot be handled in a detailed manner. There is no room for discussion, debate or detailed presentation of evidence, nor is the quality of evidence classed or graded. Hence, the information should not be taken as the final word on any topic. There are no illustrative figures or algorithms. The book cannot and should not replace neurology textbooks, monographs, detailed reviews (especially evidence-based ones) or original articles. There may be a risk that