

Books Received

A HANDBOOK OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT. 1992. Edited by John R. Crawford, Denis M. Parker, William W. McKinlay. Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Inc. 454 pages. \$43.20 Cdn.

ADVANCES IN NEUROLOGY. VOLUME 60. PARKINSON'S DISEASE: FROM BASIC RESEARCH TO TREATMENT. 1993. Edited by H. Narabayashi, T. Nagatsu, N. Yanagisawa, Y. Mizuno. Published by Raven Press. 773 pages.

ADVANCES IN NEUROLOGY. VOLUME 61. 1992. Edited by A.E. Harding, Thomas Deufel. Published by Raven Press. 235 pages. \$114 Cdn.

BRAINSTORMS: EPILEPSY IN OUR WORDS – PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF LIVING WITH SEIZURES. 1992. Edited by Steven C. Schachter. Published by Raven Press. 123 pages. \$26.40 Cdn.

BROWN SEQUARD. A VISIONARY OF SCIENCE. 1992. Edited by Michael J. Aminoff. Published by Raven Press. 223 pages. \$81.60 Cdn.

CEREBRAL BLOOD FLOW AND METABOLISM. 1992. Edited by Lars Edvinsson, Eric T. MacKenzie, James McCulloch. Published by Raven Press. 693 pages. \$156 Cdn.

CEREBRAL VASCULAR OCCLUSIVE DISEASE AND BRAIN ISCHEMIA. Edited by Issam A. Awad. Published by AANS Publications Committee.

NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROSURGICAL INTENSIVE CARE . THIRD EDITION. 1992. Edited by Allan H. Ropper. Published by Raven Press. 521 pages. \$118.80 Cdn.

NEUROLOGICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SYSTEMIC DISEASES IN CHILDREN. 1992. Edited by Avraham Steinberg and Yitzchak Frank. Published by Raven Press. 399 pages. \$114 Cdn.

SEROTONIN THE CEREBELLUM, AND ATAXIA. 1992. Edited by Paul Grouillas and Kjell Fuxe. Published by Raven Press. 398 pages. \$118.80 Cdn.

THE VESTIBULO-OCULAR REFLEX AND VERTIGO. 1993. Edited by James A. Sharpe, Hugh O. Barber. Published by Raven Press. 416 pages. \$138 Cdn.

Book Reviews

FETAL AND PERINATAL NEUROLOGY. First Edition. 1992. Edited by Y. Fukuyama, Y. Suzuki, S. Kamoshita, P. Casaer. Published by Karger Publishers. 388 pages. \$278 Cdn. approx.

This book is a compendium of material presented at the joint convention of the 5th International Child Neurology Congress and the 3rd Asian and Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology in Tokyo, in November 1990. The title of the book is somewhat misleading. While all of the contributions deal with hereditary and acquired disorders of the developing nervous system, it is unlikely that many of the topics would be found in a standard textbook of fetal and perinatal neurology. It requires considerable elasticity of definition to include material on autism, Duchenne/Becker muscular dystrophy, childhood peripheral neuropathies, Rett syndrome, and several neurocutaneous syndromes, for example, as these disorders are unlikely to present themselves to the physician in the fetal and perinatal periods. If one is looking for a systematic review of fetal and perinatal neurology one needs to look elsewhere.

Once past this initial caveat, I must immediately say that there is a wealth of useful, current information in this book. The contributions are divided into six major groupings: pediatric neurogenetics, embryology and dysgenesis of the brain, neurocutaneous syndromes, pre- and perinatal pathophysiology of brain damage, new syndromes and rare interesting diseases, and ethical problems in child neurology. Many of the contributions are well-written, comprehensive and well-referenced. Some of the best sections include those by Ouvrier (peripheral neuropathies in childhood), Naidu (Rett syndrome), Moses (therapy of genetically determined metabolic disorders; peroxisomes and pediatric neurological diseases), Samat (disturbances of neuroblast migrations after 20 weeks gesta-

tion; cerebral plasticity in embryological development), Gomez (neurocutaneous syndromes), Harel et al. (vascular-induced intrauterine growth retardation), Volpe (perinatal hypoxic-ischemic brain injury), and Barth (inherited progressive disorders of fetal brain). The section on ethical issues deals with brain death, anencephaly, persistent vegetative state, allocation of medical resources, and ethical implications of neurologic care in developing countries: all of this material is well worth reading.

The book is prefaced by two award lectures, both outstanding contributions: a review of autism (I. Rapin), and a discussion of the physiological and pathophysiological roles of excitatory amino acids during central nervous system development (M.V. Johnston).

The actual editing and production of the volume leaves room for improvement. It would appear that there has been little effort made to edit the contributions of some authors whose first language is not English; I encountered sentences by several authors which were unfortunately almost incomprehensible. There are a number of instances of a lack of appropriate spacing and changes in print type, making the proper distinction of sections and subsections difficult. Finally, there are an unusually large number of typographical errors, and incorrect figure legends.

In summary, this book would not, in my opinion, be a suitable introduction, for the neophyte, to the field of fetal and perinatal neurology. Provided one could see past the high price (\$278 Cdn.), the practising pediatric neurologist would find a very helpful, up-to-date review of a large number of important topics in the discipline of Child Neurology.

*Peter Humphreys
Ottawa, Ontario*