

ischemic stroke patients requiring intensive care. An evidence-based review of blood pressure and cerebral edema management, therapeutic hypothermia and potential cardiac complications is clinically practical. In addition the authors provide tabulated guidelines which are useful.

Chapter 9 (Evaluation of acute stroke etiologies) reviews evidence for the effect of stroke subtype on stroke outcome and the sensitivity and specificity of imaging modalities including CT/CTA, MRI, DWI/MRA in predicting stroke etiology when performed early in the evaluation of the stroke patient. Although brief, the chapter is comprehensive.

Chapter 10 (Telestroke: application of telemedicine in acute ischemic stroke), the final chapter, reviews published data from several telestroke networks which are currently established in Europe, Canada and the United States. Potential problems, including variable referral rates, financial and legal considerations are considered. This chapter leaves many questions open.

Overall impression: *Acute Ischemic Stroke, An Evidence-Based Approach*, provides a concise and helpful review of acute ischemic stroke diagnosis and management and will prove useful both to the stroke expert as well as the less experienced physicians caring for stroke patients. Several chapters provide useful tabulated guidelines for management. The book is an enjoyable read and will be a valued addition to your medical library.

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THE WAY WE DIE. 2007. By Leslie Ivan. Published by Pari Publishing. 232 pages. Price C\$17.

The Way We Die includes chapters on brain death, vegetative states, organ transplantation in relation to brain death, euthanasia, a chapter related to other issues pertaining to death including 'do not resuscitate orders', dying with dignity, livings wills, and finally perspectives on life after death.

The chapters are concise and well written with a mix of scholarly content, frequent use of clinical cases, and personal perspectives and reflections on behalf of the principal author who is a neurosurgeon.

A unique feature of the book is use of the bold print throughout the chapters highlighting key words that are later defined in one of the appendices. This feature would be of benefit to the lay reader who may be unacquainted with some of the terms. Selected bibliographies are also included.

As a practitioner of palliative medicine, this book was of interest to me as topics such as brain death, and vegetative states are not often included in other palliative medicine related references. Although many of the cases refer to acute and/or traumatic neurological conditions leading to brain death, and vegetative states, one could consider extrapolating the pathophysiological changes in these states to patients with other illnesses, such as advanced cancer, where patients often die in varying lengths of comatose states. Perhaps, my only criticism of the book is the occasional replication

of content between chapters. Overall, an informative and valuable read.

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THIEME ATLAS OF ANATOMY: HEAD AND NEUROANATOMY. 2007. By Michael Schuenke, Erik Schulte, Udo Schumacher, Lawrence Ross, Edward Lamperti, Ethan Taub. Published by Thieme. 420 pages. Price C\$70.

This atlas is a colorful and attractive large-format paperback. The present edition is an English translation of the book which was originally published in German. It's the third atlas in the Thieme anatomy series. In the preface, the authors say that they wanted to produce the "ideal" atlas of anatomy, one that combines illustrations with explanatory text and tables and that introduces clinical concepts throughout. That's an ambitious goal and one could argue whether this volume is ideal but it is excellent.

The book is organized into two sections, one on the head and the second covering the nervous system. The head section is divided into chapters dealing with bones, muscles, vasculature, nerves, topographical anatomy, the mouth, the nose, the eye, and the ear. There follows a chapter on sectional anatomy of the head with a series of illustrations of coronal, sagittal, and transverse sections. This last chapter could have been enhanced by the inclusion of more CT or MRI images.

The second half of the book deals with neuroanatomy beginning with an introductory chapter that deals mainly with histology and embryology and then chapters on the meninges, ventricles, cerebrum, diencephalon, brainstem, cerebellum, vessels, and spinal cord. There's a chapter on sectional anatomy of the brain and then one on the autonomic nervous system. A final chapter illustrates and discusses functional systems in the nervous system. Although there are good illustrations and text concerning the brachial and lumbosacral plexi, that's as far out into the peripheral nervous system as this text ventures. Presumably, peripheral neuroanatomy is covered in another volume of the series. The illustrations are of very high-quality but I found the realistically painted brainstem sections a little pale.

The text surrounding the illustrations is much more thorough than one usually sees in an anatomy atlas. Throughout, there are clear discussions of clinical syndromes and how they relate to anatomy. For example, if one looks up 'stroke' in the index, one is directed to the section on blood vessels of the brain where there are excellent illustrations of vascular anatomy along with diagrams outlining the clinical deficits resulting from infarcts in various venous and arterial territories. Plates demonstrate the appearance and location of hypertensive and traumatic intracranial hemorrhages as well as the common locations of berry aneurysms. A student or junior resident learning spinal anatomy can find some very helpful illustrations of the patterns of deficits seen with various lesions of the cord, roots, and plexi.

I looked up some of my own clinical interests. Under 'aphasia', there's very little other than an illustration of the locations of Broca's

and Wernicke's areas. Even a drawing of Lichtheim's house with a little explanatory text would've helped. 'Neglect' is not included in the index. I'm sure that most of us could raise similar quibbles about the coverage of our own areas of interest but overall, this is an excellent atlas. Need to refresh your anatomical knowledge of the trigeminal ganglion, for example? There are over ten different views to choose from. The highlight of the book is the pictures and they are beautifully painted and labeled. I recommend this book to students and residents attempting to master anatomy but also to practicing neurologists and neurosurgeons who need a quick refresher on where exactly the pterygoid plexus or the supraoptic recess are and what they look like.

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HANDBOOK OF CONTEMPORARY NEUROPHARMACOLOGY. THREE VOLUME SET. 2007. Edited by David R. Sibley, Israel Hanin, Michael Kuhar, Phil Skolnick. Published by John Wiley & Sons Inc. 2992 pages. Price C\$810.

During the past few decades, the disciplines of neuroscience and neuropharmacology have advanced dramatically. This has contributed to a better understanding of the functions of the nervous system as well as the development of new pharmacological tools and therapeutic agents for the investigation and treatment of neurological and psychological disorders. Neuropharmacology is a fundamental topic for neuroscientists, clinicians, pharmacologists, and investigators involved in pharmaceutical research. The increase in interest and the broad nature of the field obviously provided the basis for the development of a handbook of neuropharmacology.

The Handbook of Contemporary Neuropharmacology is a three volume set with a total of 2992 pages. Noted in the Preface, these volumes are part of the publisher's major reference work program and will be available both in print and online. The online version will allow for easy accessibility and frequent updates that are necessary for a handbook to be current. The editors state that the handbook was designed to be translational (bench to bedside). Each Volume is divided into Parts, which are further divided into Chapters. For example, Volume one is the introductory volume and has two parts: Basic Neuropharmacology and Mood Disorders. Part one is a large component of the book, consisting of 17 chapters describing the basics and principles of neuropharmacology. Included are topics on

synaptic transmission, receptors, channels, neuropeptides, transporters and gaseous signaling. The first chapter titled "Soup or Sparks: The History of Drugs and Synapses" provides an excellent introduction to the first volume and the entire set as well. Part two consists of five chapters describing the neurobiology and treatment of various mood disorders. The chapters in Part two include clinical aspects that are also described in later sections.

Volume two consists of four parts; Anxiety and Stress Disorders (6 chapters), Schizophrenia and Psychosis (6 chapters), Substance Abuse and Addictive Disorders (7 chapters), and Pain (4 chapters). Volume three has five parts; Sleep and Arousal (6 chapters), Development and Developmental Disorders (6 chapters), Neurodegenerative and Seizure Disorders (7 chapters), Neuroimmunology (5 chapters) and Eating and Metabolic Disorders (4 chapters). Each volume contains both an index and cumulative index.

The three volume set consists mostly of multi-authored chapters. There are a total of 159 contributors. Each chapter provides a review of a specific topic with an impressive list of references, some as current as 2005. Although extensive information is provided within each chapter, a comprehensive overview of a theme is lacking. There are also a number of repetitive sections among chapters. Hopefully, this will be corrected in future online versions. Although each chapter is introduced with a table of contents, the format is not consistent between chapters; some are deficient in providing an introduction and/or historical perspective. Most chapters are complemented with well constructed black/white figures. Colour plates are included in each volume and strangely, in the copy for review, these plates were inserted collectively in the middle of one of the chapters. It would have been advantageous to have the colour plates included within the appropriate chapter.

Other previously published textbooks have provided the basics of neuropharmacology. This publication, in addition to the basics, does include considerable current material and relevant clinical information and warrants a three volume set. The Handbook will be useful as a valuable resource for basic and clinical scientists, clinicians, pharmaceutical professionals and students. At a retail price of \$810.00 Cdn, however, purchase of the three volume set may be limited to libraries and institutes. Perhaps the online version would be more reasonable in cost and thus more attractive to a larger audience including students.

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