

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

dealing only with common childhood neurological problems. In general the authors have produced a very useful book which should prove to be attractive to its intended audience.

The book opens with a practical review of neurological history taking and examination techniques referable to the pediatric population. There follows a concise but comprehensive discussion of the various diagnostic techniques currently available in the antenatal diagnosis of neurologic disorders. The remainder of the book consists of 18 chapters dealing with common pediatric neurologic problems, i.e. neural tube defects, neonatal intracranial hemorrhage, neonatal asphyxia and static encephalopathies, neonatal seizures, epilepsy, febrile seizures, neuromuscular disorders, muscular dystrophies, meningitis, encephalitis, Reye Syndrome, para-infectious neurologic disorders, neurocutaneous syndromes, migraine, ataxia, head injuries, increased intracranial pressure and brain tumours. There is, appropriately, no discussion of metabolic and degenerative disorders affecting the nervous system as these are largely the province of the consulting neurologist.

In general, the chapters are succinct and well written. In general only the more common disorders within a category of neurologic disease are discussed. There is a consistency of style and organization between the chapters that make them very easy to follow. There is almost no overlap of information provided by the different authors; in situations where there is common information, e.g. anticonvulsant drug dosages, there is good internal consistency of information. The information provided in this book is nearly always accurate, certainly complete enough for the intended audience, and up to date. I found only one example of incomplete and therefore possibly misleading information: in a table concerned with commonly used antiepileptic drugs, it is mentioned that phenobarbital is available in tablets of 8, 16, 32 and 64 mg, with no mention of the (to my knowledge) more commonly used strengths of 10, 15, 30 and 60 mg. The book is singularly free of typographical errors, there being only one important exception in which the recommended rate of administration of intravenous phenytoin is given as 50 mg/kg.

For the most part the material offered in the various chapters is precisely that which ought to be of most use to pediatricians, family physicians, etc. Exceptions are rare and certainly not enough to deter the average reader. I was somewhat surprised to see that the concise, well-written chapter on the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy contained no mention of benign epilepsy with rolandic spikes, one of the most frequent epileptic syndromes seen in the pediatric age group. On the other hand, the chapter on disorders of the neuromuscular system unaccountably contained a two page table on the distinguishing features of congenital myasthenic syndromes, excellent information for the pediatric neurologist but probably of very little use to the pediatrician or family physician.

On the whole, I found this to be a very good book which achieves its limited aims very well. It should prove to be very useful to general practitioners, family physicians and pediatricians.

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SPEECH AND LANGUAGE EVALUATION IN NEUROLOGY: CHILDHOOD DISORDERS. First edition. Edited by John K. Darby. Published by Grune & Stratton, Inc. 278 pages. Cdn. \$72.00.

The final book in a four-volume compendium, *Speech and Language Evaluation in Neurology: Childhood Disorders* is a clearly and concisely edited work written for neurologists who care for children with communication disorders. Eighteen authors, who are active in the field of language research and clinical application, present various aspects of the overall topic in nine appropriately ordered chapters that are grouped into three sections.

The first section is entitled "Language Disorders". An overview defines basic terminology, discusses theories of language acquisition, provides a diagnostic classification, examines the current understanding regarding the neurologic bases of language disorders in children and outlines the basis of identification, assessment and treatment of language-disordered children. This is followed by an extensive review of the principal language disorders in children, discussing etiology, correlates specific features of the language disorder, management and prognosis for each disorder. A chapter on language disorders after closed head injury in children, the leading cause of aphasia in children, emphasizes that persisting subtle language disturbances are common and show many similarities to deficits identified in adults. A balanced discussion of the controversies surrounding the existence, diagnosis and management of apraxia of speech in children concludes the opening section.

Dysarthria in children is the theme of the second section. A classical neurologic perspective of dysarthria, including the essential neurobiologic basis, is presented in an orderly, anatomical manner, with useful tables of classification and differential diagnosis. Further discussion of the classification of dysarthria, theoretical considerations of speech motor control, clinical characteristics and management strategies are presented by a speech pathologist. The section is completed by a broad overview of the special challenge of multi-handicapped, speech-impaired children.

The final and, appropriately, briefest section addresses the dimensions of genetics in childhood speech and language disorders. It presents data on the genetics of selected developmental language disorders and the preliminary applications of molecular genetics to the study of disorders of communication in children.

This book is highly recommended by this reviewer. Given the lack of an adequate and widely accepted classification of language disorders in children, it is not surprising that in a multi-authored book some variations in classification and nomenclature arise. The book is not a comprehensive treatment (for example, dysphonia and dysrhythmias are only alluded to, except for a very brief and incomplete discussion of stuttering in the chapter on molecular genetics) but is rather a collection of readings with some overlap and some variation in perspective, but uniformly written to a medical audience. This book will be particularly helpful for paediatric neurologists along with their adult neurology and paediatric colleagues, especially those involved in developmental, behavioural and rehabilitative specialties.