

## Books Received

**CEREBROVASCULAR ULTRASOUND.** 2001. Edited by Michael Hennerici, Stephen Meairs. Published by Cambridge University Press. 427 pages C\$322.30 approx.

**CLINICAL EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SPASTICITY.** 2002. By David A. Gelber, Douglas R. Jeffery. Published by Humana Press Inc. 385 pages C\$201.41 approx.

**CRANIAL NERVES IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. SECOND EDITION.** 2002. By Linda Wilson-Pauwels, Elizabeth J. Akesson, Patricia A. Stewart, Sian D. Spacey. Published by BC Decker Inc. 245 pages C\$74.95 approx.

**EPILEPSY - PATIENT & FAMILY GUIDE 2ND EDITION.** 2002. By Orrin Devinsky. Published by F.A. Davis. 434 pages C\$40.50 approx.

**EPILEPSY AND MOVEMENT DISORDERS.** 2002. Edited by Renzo Guerrini, Jean Aicardi, Frederick Andermann, Mark Hallett. Published by Cambridge University Press. 557 pages C\$193.40 approx.

**FUNDAMENTALS OF OPERATIVE TECHNIQUES IN NEUROSURGERY.** 2002. By E. Sander Connolly, Guy M. McKhann II, Judy Huang, Tanvir F. Choudhri. Published by Thieme. 1072 pages C\$158.45 approx.

**FUNDAMENTALS OF THE THEORY OF MOVEMENT PERCEPTION.** 2001. By Ernst Mach. Published by Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers. 191 pages C\$136.97 approx.

**HANDBOOK OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS.** 2002. By Khurram Bashir, John N. Whitaker. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 248 pages C\$64.37 approx.

**HEADACHE AND MIGRAINE IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE.** 2002. Edited by Vincenzo Guidetti, George Russell, Matti Sillanpaa, Paul Winner. Published by Martin Dunitz. 502 pages C\$147.54 approx.

**MAGNETIC RESONANCE IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF C.N.S. DISORDERS.** 2001. Edited by Vaso Antunovic, Gradimir Dragutinovic, Zvonimir Levic, Miroslav Samardzic. Published by Thieme. 317 pages C\$207.86 approx.

**MANUAL OF NEUROLOGY - SEVENTH EDITION.** 2002. By Maurice Victor. Allan H. Ropper. Published by McGraw-Hill. 547 pages C\$0.00 approx.

**MOVEMENT DISORDERS IN CHILDREN.** 2001. By Emilio Fernandez-Alvarez, Jean Aicardi. Published by Cambridge University Press. 263 pages C\$120.78 approx.

**NEUROLOGIC COMPLICATIONS OF CRITICAL ILLNESS. SECOND EDITION.** 2001. By Eelco F.M. Wijdicks. Published by Oxford University Press. 448 pages C\$173.50 approx.

**NEUROPSYCHIATRY. AN INTRODUCTORY APPROACH.** 2001. By David B. Arciniegas, Thomas P. Beresford. Published by Cambridge University Press. 438 pages C\$80.45 approx.

**SYNDROMES EPILEPTIQUES ET TROUBLES PSYCHOTIQUES.** 2002. By Bertrand de Toffol. Published by John Libbey Eurotext. 216 pages C\$80.69 approx.

**THE CEREBELLUM AND ITS DISORDERS.** 2001. Edited by Mario Ubaldo Manto, Massimo Pandolfo. Published by Cambridge University Press. 589 pages C\$362.60 approx.

**THE ORIENTING RESPONSE IN INFORMATION PROCESSING.** 2002. By Eugene N. Sokolov, John A. Spinks, Risto Naatanen, Heikki Lyytinen. Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 368 pages C\$144.72 approx.

**TREATMENT-RESISTANT MOOD DISORDERS.** 2001. Edited by Jay D. Amsterdam, Mady Hornig, Andrew A. Nierenberg. Published by Cambridge University Press. 535 pages C\$149.82 approx.

## Book Reviews

**NEUROPATHOLOGY AND NEURORADIOLOGY: A REVIEW.** 2001. Jonathan Stuart Citow, Robert L. Wollmann, and Robert L. MacDonald. Published by Thieme. 239 pages. C\$90.51 approx.

This book is a collection of approximately 350 illustrations of gross and microscopic neuropathology specimens and of neuroradiology films with accompanying text in numbered sentences and brief paragraphs. As the title suggests, it covers neuropathology and neuroradiology rather than clinical presentation and treatment. Nevertheless, signs and symptoms are listed for many of the syndromes and some therapeutic pointers are offered, particularly for the less common disorders. Of the 32 chapters, three deal with general neuropathology and development, 19 concern the

brain and skull, six describe spinal conditions, and three are devoted to peripheral nerves and muscle. The authors are two neurosurgeons and a neuropathologist at the University of Chicago. Apparently, Citow wrote most of the book, while still a resident.

The collection contains many valuable illustrations of classical disease states. Among the more precious radiographs are plain films of a Charcot joint, an MRI scan showing central pontine myelinolysis, a coronal MRI scan of carbon monoxide encephalopathy with adjacent pathological section, and MRI and CT scans of Sturge-Weber syndrome. Relatively rare conditions receive proportionally more coverage than more common conditions. For example, the collection of cross-sections of the spinal cord illustrates

pathological changes in syphilis, subacute combined degeneration, poliomyelitis and Friedreich's ataxia but not cervical spondylosis or trauma. Approximately the same amount of coverage is given to hereditary disorders of lipid metabolism as to head injury. The selection of spinal fractures is representative rather than extensive. Almost all of the neuropathology presented could have been presented a decade or more ago and little attention is paid to recent advances in molecular neuropathology. For example, spinocerebellar atrophies and hereditary peripheral neuropathies are classified eponymously by symptoms rather than by the underlying genetic defect. In this respect, the claim on the back cover that the book provides "updates on rapidly evolving research and clinical advances" is difficult to justify.

As stated by Bryce Weir in his foreword, the book could be very useful to a medical student or resident preparing for a multiple choice examination. It fills a niche in complementing textbooks with a more systematic, contemporary, and clinical approach.

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**LIMBIC SEIZURES IN CHILDREN. MARIANI FOUNDATION PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY SERIES: 8.** 2001. Edited by Giuliano Avanzini, Anne Beaumanoir, Laura Mira. Published by John Libbey & Company Ltd. 258 pages. C\$102.00 approx.

This book has 27 chapters based on a colloquium "to outline the specific expression of epilepsies involving the limbic structures in children and to establish a consensus on the evidence relevant to the clinical management of these epilepsies". The book is technical and not an easy read. It will likely be of interest to experts in epilepsy centres but not to the more casual reader.

The organization of the chapters is a bit unclear. The first four chapters are devoted to the anatomy, circuitry and some of the basic epilepsy pathways in the limbic system. We learn that malformations in the temporal lobe can allow seizure discharge to jump from the allocortex to the neocortex. The embryology of the limbic system is discussed but developmental aspects of limbic neurophysiology receive little attention.

Next a chapter by Spencer and colleagues defines the clinical syndrome of mesial temporal lobe epilepsy and suggests that it may be different in adults and children. They suggest that mesial temporal sclerosis is a progressive lesion because the sprouting of mossy fibers is seen in adult pathology but not in early childhood.

Chapters 6 through 11 concentrate on various clinical features of limbic seizures and generally conclude that these features are often seen in children. There is a masterful analysis of "loss of consciousness" versus "loss of contact" as the defining feature of complex partial seizures by the late Claudio Munari who was known for his provocative questioning of our current terminology and classification. Vegetative, motor, autonomic, language and motor manifestations are discussed in separate chapters. We learn of perisylvian spread, involvement of the insula, and distinctions between frontal and temporal seizures.

There is a short review of the role of febrile seizures as the cause of mesial temporal sclerosis. Given the huge amount of controversy about this issue over the past 50 years, it was disappointing not to see more. In particular, the issue of dual pathology is mentioned but not amplified.

A series of chapters focus on memory disturbance, psychic experiences and perceptual/intellectual issues. The famous series of

Ounstead is critiqued for selection bias and the large proportion of children with mental handicap. Ictal depth recordings, SPECT and MRI are described.

Even though a major aim of the book was to analyze treatment, there is only a single chapter devoted to medical therapy in children. Unfortunately there are few randomized trials to turn to, especially with newer medications. A four-page chapter discusses surgical treatment without any references or literature review. A rambling chapter tries to come to grips with the presence of benign limbic epilepsy in childhood.

In general, the illustrations are good. The pitch of the text, especially for the summaries, is very small – bifocals are needed! The vocabulary is sometimes challenging often without definitions – loco-regional, horripilation, recurrent collateral sprouting, rubefaction, projective motricity, intercritical discharge – to name a few. The book struggles with the relatively small literature on this subject that is truly related to children. Most clinical series have fewer than 20 children and many of the chapters concentrate on fewer than 10 studied cases. Most of the cases discussed come from outstanding European expert centers that focus on intractable epilepsy. There is apparently much less written about the more common, controllable limbic epilepsies in children. At least half of the book emphasizes experiences with adults.

My enthusiasm for this book is somewhat limited. It does, however, point out the need for more careful studies, particularly clinical studies, of partial epilepsy in childhood. It is apparent that we need better definitions, better methods of investigation and above all, more collaboration in randomized treatment studies.

*Peter Camfield  
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**PATHOGENESIS OF NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS.** 2001. Edited by Mark P. Mattson. Published by Humana Press. 294 pages. C\$211.20 approx.

The title of this book is somewhat misleading. First, it does not deal exclusively or comprehensively with disorders typically classified as "neurodegenerative". Second, it does not cover disease pathogenesis in a broad sense, but focuses quite specifically on a few final mechanisms of neuronal cell death. The first two chapters provide good overviews of the molecular and biochemical events involved in apoptosis and oxidative injury. Each subsequent chapter deals with a specific neurologic disease, in detail. Although a few of the authors provide a more balanced view, most concentrate on cataloguing the markers of oxidative stress and/or apoptosis which have been identified in postmortem tissue with less emphasis on the preceding events which are probably more disease specific. Individual chapters are devoted to Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, however, there is no mention of dementia with Lewy bodies or less common neurodegenerative conditions such as Pick's disease, progressive supranuclear palsy, or the multiple system atrophies. While the chapter on ischemic stroke helps to define the importance of oxidative injury in the broader scope of neurological disease, the final two chapters dealing with spinal cord injury and Duchene muscular dystrophy seem out of place. The text is well-referenced and illustrations are limited to a few useful diagrams and flow charts. I agree with the Editor's opinion that this text will be a useful