

section, Part 1 deals primarily with those basic mechanisms of the vestibular system that are important for practitioners in the field to understand in order to be able to diagnose and treat diseases affecting the peripheral and central vestibular systems. Particularly useful was the chapter on how the brain compensates for vestibular lesions which is often a difficult area for physicians to understand and to explain to their patients.

Part 2 emphasizes the clinical evaluation and the critical importance of obtaining accurate historical information from the patient about the nature and duration of their symptoms of vestibular dysfunction. There are also several good chapters on detailed laboratory evaluation including ENG, rotational testing, auditory function and neuro-imaging. This part of the book is rounded out by 3 chapters on otolith testing, posturography and vestibular evoked potentials with good analysis of their potential uses and weakness in diagnosing and treating patients with vestibular disorders.

The third part of this text deals exclusively with the common vestibular disorders and diseases that clinicians deal with on a daily basis. The chapters on vestibular disorders due to cerebral vascular disease as well as the psychiatric aspects of vestibular disorders are particularly good as the former deals with a cause of vestibular dysfunction that is often overlooked, and the latter deals with the difficult territory of psychiatric conditions and how they overlap with vestibular disorders. Many patients with vestibular symptoms who have little in the way of abnormalities on objective testing are often labeled as having psychiatric illnesses when in fact this may not be the case. Therefore more effort needs to be expended to understand the linkage between vestibular dysfunction and some of the psychiatric conditions that are discussed in this chapter.

The final part of the text book deals with the treatment of vertigo ranging from medical therapy to surgical procedures and ending off with a good chapter on the role of vestibular rehabilitation in patients who have sustained vestibular loss whether it be peripheral or central in nature.

In summary this is an excellent text book which is well written and thoroughly enjoyable to read. The clinical experts who have authored individual chapters clearly have a great interest in vestibular disorders, and the editors have organized the book into four easy to understand sections. There are many diagrams, tables and illustrations which add to the understanding of each topic discussed. The entire text is well referenced and the index is extremely useful. This text is strongly recommended for neurologists and otolaryngologists who have an interest in neurotology as well as for practicing neurologists, neurosurgeons and otolaryngologists who may have an interest in learning more about this exciting field of medicine. I therefore have no hesitation in strongly recommending it and have no doubt that it will be a landmark text book against which subsequent books in this field will be judged.

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**CATASTROPHIC BRAIN INJURY.** 1996. Edited by H.S. Levin, A.L. Benton, J.P. Muiselaar and H.M. Eisenberg. Published by Oxford University Press, New York, Oxford. 267 pages. \$C57.50

This monograph contains 12 chapters devoted to head injury written by experts including Bryan Jennett, Muriel Lezak and Paul Muiselaar. The following aspects are reviewed: epidemiology of head injury, clinical and pathological features of the vegetative state, neurochemical changes in head trauma, medical complications in the rehabilitation ward, pharmacological management, outcomes (emphasis on cognition), ethical issues and concludes with a survey of experimental research in neuroprotective strategies, neurotrophic factors and neural transplantation.

The book is not a comprehensive text on neuro-trauma and assumes the basic aspects of neurological trauma and its management have been mastered. It is not strongly clinically oriented and is weak on the acute management of the patient with head injury. Selected aspects are discussed in considerable detail with little redundancy among the chapters. I found the following aspects to be especially informative: the improvement in prognosis related to MRI scanning and functional neuro-imaging, a thorough review of late complications (seizures, behaviour, spasticity, dystrophic calcifications, abulia and its pharmacological management), prediction of return to work, ethical issues surrounding the decision to withdraw care, and some further insights into primary brain damage.

The monograph should appeal to those interested in neuro-intensive care, especially neuro-trauma, and in neuro-rehabilitation. While it will not serve as a practice manual, it provides additional useful knowledge for the clinician and a view to promising directions of research.

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**HANDBOOK OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS: NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE & THERAPY SERIES/43.** 2nd EDITION. 1996. Edited by Stuart D. Cook. Published by Marcel Dekker, Inc. 640 pages. \$C227.00

The last several years have seen a growing sense that multiple sclerosis (MS) may ultimately become a more treatable disease. The recently completed North American interferon and copolymer trials have fueled this optimism and, with this change, basic and clinical researchers have been brought into a closer working collaboration with industry in combined efforts to advance knowledge and find a cure for this vexing and crippling disease. With significant recent progress in basic science and clinical research, dozens of promising treatment strategies are now being tested in pilot and full scale clinical trials. The pace of these changes in basic neuroscience, immunology, virology, molecular genetics, clinical trial methodology and MRI research mandates a concise and yet thorough compilation of this work in one volume. The revised and expanded *Handbook of Multiple Sclerosis* (Editor: SD Cook) does a splendid job of bringing together this body of knowledge for clinicians and basic scientists.

In this text, Cook has again assembled many of the major contributors to the field to review recent advances in their respective areas of interest. Most of the authors have extensively revised and expanded upon the material covered in the first edition (the chapter on Evoked Potentials is essentially