

Education in order to encourage undergraduate medical students to read this book and so gain a better understanding of how central, peripheral and systemic causes of dizziness can be assessed, diagnosed and treated.

In summary I found this book enjoyable to read and would recommend it for anyone with an interest in learning more about balance disorders.

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A GUIDE TO ADULT NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS. FIRST EDITION. 1996. By Anthony Y. Stringer. 528 pages. \$C91.00

The author who is an Associate Professor of Rehabilitation at Emory University School of Medicine set a goal to operationally define in an atheoretical manner the complexity of behavioural disturbances seen after brain diseases and disorders. The introductory chapter offers a rationale for a diagnostic approach, and guidelines to the organization of the remaining 18 chapters. Each chapter begins with descriptive classifications for related neuropsychological disorders including alternative nomenclatures. Thereafter follows lists of clinical indicators, associated features, factors to rule out, and lesion locations. Possible etiologies are discussed, along side the disabling consequences from a patient's perspective, some assessment instruments, and case illustrations. Rapid search strategies are greatly aided by three indices (anatomical, etiological, and behavioural), in addition to the table of contents.

Cognitive, emotional, and behavioural manifestations of neurological diseases in the brain are grouped into disorders of alertness, disorders of concentration, stimulus neglect, stimulus imperception, spatial imperception, disorders of visual-motor integration, disorders of stimulus localization, disorders of movement, disorders of oral language, disorders of written language, disorders of emotional communication, calculation disorders, memory disorders, illusions and hallucinations, neuropsychological disorders of emotion, ideation, and behaviour and intellectual decline.

Readers with little background in clinical neuropsychology will find this cookbook approach a quick and easy way to gain familiarity with this inexhaustible and sometimes bewildering field of practice. Though not intended for the novice, the latter have the most to gain from such a well organized presentation so concisely described. Advantageous is the tables and conversions of neuropsychological nomenclature into DSM-III-R, DSM-IV and ICD-9-CM codings. Others who have spent years in graduate and post graduate training might find the material too superficial and at the same time idiosyncratically precise.

One highlight of the book was the author's insights relating diagnosis with its disabling consequences; links that often go overlooked but greatly impact on leisure, social and occupational roles. These issues bear most directly upon service delivery within forensic and insurance contexts. Another very positive feature of the diagnostic exercise was the systematic, point by point guidelines that might rule out non-organic diagnoses before concluding that the deficits represent brain damage. If this section alone were heeded by diagnosticians, credibility of the field would be enhanced 100 fold.

This compendium of over 140 neuropsychological disorders was

never intended to be read from cover to cover, the way a conscientious reviewer might. Indeed, the material contained therein might better be adapted into software programs accessible via computers.

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IMAGING OF THE PEDIATRIC HEAD, NECK, AND SPINE. FIRST EDITION. 1996. By or Edited by Mauricio Castillo and Suresh K. Mukherji. Published by Lippincott-Raven, Philadelphia. 768 pages. \$C223.00

This book, *Imaging of the Pediatric, Head, and Spine* by Castillo and Mukherji is an addition to a number of noteworthy textbooks on Pediatric Neuroradiology by Barkovich, Wolpert and Barnes, and those sections of books of neuroradiology in general by Osborn and pediatric radiology in general by Kirks that deal with pediatric neuroradiology, to name a few. This book is different in that it adds a considerable degree of clinical detail to the many conditions described and a significant section on head and neck imaging in children, a difficult and less well covered subject. It also covers the full span of pediatric neuroradiology of the head and spine and their contents as well, but in a different format. The authors organize the individual disease entities in a case report format rather than in a more comprehensive cohesive chapter style. This has both its attractions and its detractions. Furthermore, and deliberately so, the authors have elected to provide few references.

I enjoyed reading the book from cover to cover. However it does have certain distractions and deficiencies which need to be mentioned. There is an enormous waste of space. Blank space abounds. By conservative estimate, fully one-quarter of the book cumulatively consists of wasted pages. For example, one page contains only a single reference on it, and is otherwise blank. This space could have been filled with useful illustrations, not adding to the price substantially as no further pages would be needed, or similarly careful editing and publishing could have cut down the volume size and therefore the price. The vast majority of illustrations are appropriate but some of them quaintly chosen for their "show-and-tell" benefit rather than their instructive usefulness. A marvelous opportunity has been missed to provide a galaxy of images which would have been extraordinarily beneficial to the reader. This deficiency may be due to lack of sufficient material or by choice. It leaves one with a paradoxical sense of frustration within the enjoyment of reading. Furthermore the choice of references sometimes appear rather arbitrary and often just too minimal for the interested reader. Four or five are most useful but a single inappropriate choice seems strange. There are three references on the rare syndrome of Kallmann and only two on primitive neuroectodermal tumours, one of which is most inappropriate!

The chapter on intracranial neoplasms is good, but each such broad topic lacks at least an introductory short chapter on how to differentiate between lesions such as within neoplasms or between them and other lesions, and their salient unique or common features. Even a table or two would be appropriate, a strategy used by authors in more rare conditions however. Parenthetically, when used these tables are most useful. A major