

BOOKS RECEIVED

NEUROTRAUMA AND CRITICAL CARE OF THE BRAIN. 2009. By Jack Jallo, Christopher M. Loftus. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 485 pages. C\$215 approx.

NEUROLOGIC DISORDERS OF THE LARYNX, SECOND EDITION. 2009. By Andrew Blitzer, Mitchell F. Brin, Lorraine O. Ramig. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 240 pages. C\$128 approx.

INTRACRANIAL STEREOTACTIC RADIOSURGERY. 2009. By L. Dade Lunsford, Jason P. Sheehan. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 182 pages. C\$185 approx.

ANIMAL MODELS OF EPILEPSY: METHODS AND INNOVATIONS. 2009. Edited by Scott C. Baraban. Published by Humana Press. 272 pages. C\$150 approx.

ESSENTIALS OF APOPTOSIS: A GUIDE FOR BASIC AND CLINICAL RESEARCH, SECOND EDITION. 2009. Edited by Xiao-Ming Yin, Zheng Dong. Published by Humana Press. 728 pages. C\$150 approx.

THE WINNER'S BIBLE: REWIRE YOUR BRAIN FOR PERMANENT CHANGE. 2009. By Kerry Spackman. Published by Greenleaf Book Group Press. 323 pages. C\$20 approx.

ADVANCED THERAPY IN EPILEPSY. 2009. Edited by James W. Wheless, L. James Willmore, Roger A. Brumback. Published by People's Medical Publishing House. 478 pages. C\$140 approx.

BOOKS REVIEWED

THE LEGACY OF HARVEY CUSHING: PROFILES OF PATIENT CARE. 2007. By Aaron A. Cohen-Gadol, Dennis D. Spencer. Published by Thieme Publishers. 584 pages. Price C\$135 approx.

I cannot imagine a single neurosurgeon who would not enjoy this book. It is certainly true that much has been written about Harvey Cushing, and Michael Bliss's biography, "Harvey Cushing: A Life in Surgery" published in 2005 provides one of the best reads regarding his life. However, "The Legacy of Harvey Cushing", by Cohen-Gadol and Spencer, affords a totally different experience. Harvey Cushing revered by many as the father of neurosurgery, is presented in a visually stunning manner. They provide an intimate portrait of Harvey Cushing's neurosurgical abilities using a case-based approach, aided by the original patient records, spectacular photographs of patients and their pathology, and a fantastic collection of his diagrams. These patient stories clearly illustrates his tremendous medical skills, exceptional ability to localize disease within the nervous system, and willingness, matched by skill, to expand the scope of neurosurgical possibilities. Finally, the book ends with a wonderful collection of photographs depicting Dr. Cushing at work. These photographs, as well as those of his patients, are truly magnificent.

Harvey Cushing lived at the beginning of the 20th century at a time when diagnostic imaging, surgical equipment and anesthetic techniques were primitive by today's standards. He stands out for the remarkable advancement of neurosurgery that occurred through his efforts. Prior to Harvey Cushing, the mortality of craniotomy for patients with brain tumors was over 50%. Harvey Cushing reduced this to 10%. In addition, while he wrote seminal works on many neurosurgical domains, he also won a Pulitzer Prize in 1926 for a biography of Sir William Osler. His incredible surgical successes were punctuated by honest descriptions of his

mistakes and complications. This book clearly shows us the tremendous caring, concern and compassion that Harvey Cushing conveyed to his patients. Dr. Cohen-Gadol describes his book as "recognition of the Cushing patients for their gift to neurosurgery." It without doubt honors their contribution. I am thankful to the authors for such a wonderful, reverent and inspiring publication.

*Mark Hamilton
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CORTICO-SUBCORTICAL DYNAMICS IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE. 2009. Edited by Kuei-Yuan Tseng. Published by Humana Press. 449 pages. Price C\$215 approx.

This is a specialty item book that is geared towards a somewhat wide scientific audience. The list of contributors is impressive and the chapters are clear to understand. The references are also extensive and comprehensive. The book includes five sections that are actually divisible into three parts. The first part is based upon the physiology and the dynamics of the cortico-subcortical circuitry at the physiological level. This part also includes two chapters on the computational aspects of physiology at a network level. The second part has four chapters on the biology and pathology of Parkinson's disease. The final part goes back to the physiology of the disease and deals with predominantly

electrochemical modulation of the dysfunctional circuits in Parkinson's disease.

The book has many well-established authors and provides a good overview of the advances made in many fields across these three parts. The material is complex and dense. Therefore it is difficult to connect the diverse topics well together. The physiology sections starts with two overview chapters that are quite good and lay the foundation for the subsequent chapters at least on the physiology. The subsequent treatment of subjects of the individual neurotransmitters such as dopamine and glutamate are covered reasonably well. However, the chapters on computational models are somewhat superficial and require a larger section to truly tie together the sections on the physiology and computation. The authors of these chapters have themselves done a substantial amount of work but the considerations as written in the chapters are limited.

The section on the neurobiology and pathophysiology is adequate but it was difficult to find any relevance to the topic being covered by the book. Although cognitive deficits can be easily considered into the dynamics of PD, it was not clear to me how the topics of G-Protein coupling, plant toxin etc could be relevant to the dynamics of cortical-subcortical function in PD. I had the same problem in terms of the treatment chapters, especially the one on dopamine replacement. This was a superficial review of a complex issue that also had no tie-in to the title of the book. The chapters on deep brain stimulation were at least somewhat more relevant as they deal with the aspects of dynamical systems that are touched upon in the earlier chapters. Cell replacement therapies as the last chapter also seems to me to be out-of-place.

I feel that the book and the topic are clearly needed in the field. However, there appear to be several chapters in the book that do not actually address the title of the book. It is because of this that the subject in those sections seems somewhat superficial and disconnected. The book would have been better if it had been restricted to the subject of cortico-subcortical dynamics.

Therefore the topic focuses predominantly on the advances made in the neurophysiological understanding of circuit dysfunction in Parkinsons disease.

*Mandar Jog
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A CIRCLE OF SOULS. 2009. By Preetham Grandhi. Published by Sweetwater Books. 339 pages. Price C\$30 approx.

Dr. Peter Gram is a psychiatry fellow at a teaching hospital in Newbury, Connecticut. On call one night he admits Naya, a 7-year-old girl who's tried to climb over a balcony wall in her sleep. When Naya begins to draw pictures that suggest she's dreaming details about the recent brutal murder of another child, Dr. Gram is drawn into the criminal investigation.

The book is slow to get started but it's worth persisting as short chapters telling converging storylines begin to move this novel along quickly once it does get going. While the identity of the murderer is pretty obvious early in the book, it's still fun watching the characters try to figure it out. A few plot points don't seem to make sense. For example, Dr. Gram gets himself into trouble by foolishly visiting the murder scene for no clear reason; investigating officers enter someone's apartment without a warrant or anything that seems like just cause. Nevertheless, it's overall a well-told story.

Non-medical readers will find the descriptions of day to day running of a hospital ward interesting. Given the book's American setting, I was intrigued that it took several pages of the novel just for Dr. Gram to talk an insurance company into allowing him to admit Naya to hospital.

The author, Preetham Grandhi, is a child psychiatrist himself and this is his first novel. This story, with its paranormal twist on psychiatric practice, has a "Sixth Sense" flavour to it and would make an even better film than it does a novel.

If you've looking for a light read for a quiet weekend, this is a good book to pick up. It's not a novel that challenges the reader but it certainly succeeds in entertaining.

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