

BOOKS RECEIVED

NEURO-ONCOLOGY: THE ESSENTIALS. SECOND EDITION. 2008. By Mark Bernstein, Mitchel S. Berger. Published by Thieme. 496 pages. C\$170 approx.

IN THE REALM OF HUNGRY GHOSTS. CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH ADDICTION. 2008. By Gabor Maté. Published by Random House of Canada Limited. 465 pages. C\$35 approx.

STROKE RECOVERY WITH CELLULAR THERAPIES. 2008. Edited by Sean I. Savitz, Daniel M. Rosenbaum. Published by Humana Press. 166 pages. C\$100 approx.

ADVANCES AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS IN NEUROSURGERY. VOLUME 33. 2008. Edited by J.D. Pickard, N. Akalan, C. Di Rocco, V.V. Dolenc, J. Lobo Antunes, J.J.A. Mooij, J. Schramm, M. Sindou. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 282 pages. C\$240 approx.

BOOKS REVIEWED

THE JOHNS HOPKINS ATLAS OF DIGITAL EEG: AN INTERACTIVE TRAINING GUIDE. 2007. Edited by Gregory L. Krauss, Robert S. Fisher. Published by The Johns Hopkins University Press. 360 pages. Price C\$147.

This 360-page text accompanying the DVD is divided into three sections: 1) a technical introduction, 2) a large "EEG for Beginners" section, and 3) an atlas section. The atlas is divided into chapters dealing with artifacts, normal patterns in adults, patterns that are benign or of unknown significance, focal and generalized slow patterns, ictal and interictal epileptiform patterns, normal and abnormal pediatric patterns, and a section illustrating the relationship of the 10-20 system of electrode placement to cortical topography.

Several features make this Atlas a useful tool for the nascent electroencephalographer. The "no frills" section on "EEG for Beginners" is excellent. Although touted by the authors as aimed for readers who are completely unfamiliar with EEG, its practical approach and the "EEG principles" in highlighted in italics provide useful learning points for all EEG learners. This section also provides the basis for much of the Atlas content, and EEG learners should keep going back to it as they acquire hands on knowledge on EEG interpretation.

Text for EEG plates is organized in useful sections explaining the clinical scenario, a description of the EEG pattern at hand, its clinical relevance, and a brief listing of related waveforms and clinical patterns. The suggested readings presented in introductory chapters are a relevant compendium of the classic work describing various EEG patterns. The index is useful and contains interesting entries such as over-reporting and under-reporting, which are not commonly found in texts.

The DVD contains an easy to install application which includes clips of actual EEG that can be opened by installing the included Persyst® software. One of the most useful features is the icons with related clinical and EEG patterns. These links allow the reader to immediately compare EEG patterns. There is a self-test section and a small sampling of video EEG seizures. Lastly, there is a section on

advanced EEG, which gives a brief overview of more advanced methods of analysis of EEG data. The addition of the Persyst® software gives the beginner the opportunity to explore the impact of various montages, sensitivities and filter settings. Overall, the DVD is a plus and is one of the features that sets this Atlas apart. For those who prefer reading a book on a screen, the DVD can be used as a stand-alone text.

A few aspects could be improved upon. I personally would welcome more references linked directly to statements in explanatory text for EEG plates. Also, the introductory chapters for each section are of variable usefulness; some are too brief and generic to contribute meaningfully. A few more pages would add substantial value to these sections. Also the montages in the self-test clippings are barely visible in some of the questions, making it difficult to localize the findings in question.

As stated by the editors, the Atlas is not intended as a comprehensive tome on Digital EEG, but rather as an interactive guide for learners of EEG. It is clearly geared to the new learner, a goal which it accomplishes well by introducing the beginner to the world of digital EEG. Because of its focus and content, the Atlas can also be a useful resource for those involved in teaching EEG.

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COMPREHENSIVE BOARD REVIEW IN NEUROLOGY. 2007. By Mark K. Borsody. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers. 356 pages. Price C\$85.

This board review book is a 300-page glossy text that fulfills its role as a concise, informative resource aimed at residents preparing for board exams. The book is written in an outline format and provides a vast amount of information that is easily digestible with the help of numerous tables, diagrams, color slides and radiologic

images. In addition, boxed high-yield points provide reinforcement for major syndromes and other important details. The book begins with a comprehensive neuroanatomy chapter with numerous diagrams and pictures that illustrate the text very well. In addition to the usual brain and spinal cord anatomy, this chapter has detailed sections on neuroophthalmology and neurootology. The chapter is well written and includes good, concise descriptions of symptoms and signs related to lesions at different levels of the neuraxis. There are numerous boxed high-yield points and abundant tables to help reinforce learning. The subsequent 12 chapters cover the major neuropathologic categories: vascular disorders, epilepsy, demyelinating disorders, oncology, headache & pain, behavioral neurology and psychiatry, movement disorders, neuropathy, myopathy, infections and developmental/metabolic disorders. There is also an invaluable chapter on systemic diseases affecting the nervous system, an often overlooked topic. The chapters are written by different physicians including a Canadian.

The book's outline format enables the dissemination of vast amounts of information. The individual topics are well covered, providing details in point form and highlighting major syndromes, as well as other important points. Diagnosis, pathology and treatment details are provided for most major neurological disease. There are numerous histopathology slides, radiologic images, boxed high-yield points, and abundant tables to aid the visual learner. The book does offer the advantage of color pictures which is still uncommon in review books. Numerous diagrams depicting pathophysiologic processes, metabolic pathways and drug mechanism of action can be found throughout the book. There is an abundance of summary tables which render it easier for the reader to compare and contrast the different pathologies.

As with most American review books, it may be lacking certain features required for those studying for the Canadian Royal College exam. As most review books, it does not provide a method for approaching clinical symptoms. One can argue that this is not the role of a review book but it needs to be kept in mind. Furthermore, some of the treatment approaches, especially in stroke are not referenced so it is not clear which studies substantiate the treatments put forth. There is also a lack of information on how current the genetic data is and this is a problem in the chapter on movement disorders since it reports only a few of the DYT mutations.

The Comprehensive Board Review in Neurology provides a tool for assimilating vast amounts of information in a comprehensive, easily digestible manner. It reviews the major neurological diseases and should be adequate for American board exams. Those studying for the Canadian Royal College exam, however, will require a more clinical approach based text in addition to review books such as this.

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ADVANCES IN FUNCTIONAL AND REPARATIVE NEUROSURGERY. 2006. Edited by J.W. Chang, Y. Katayama, T. Yamamoto. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 153 pages. Price C\$120.

This book comprises a collection of short clinical and experimental research articles originating from the conferences of the Neurorehabilitation Committee of the World Federation of

Neurosurgical Sciences (WFNS) and the 1st Congress of the International Society of Reconstructive Neurosurgery (ISRN) which were held in Seoul on September 2005. Its 153 pages are divided into topics of neurorehabilitation, involuntary movement disorders, pain control, epilepsy, spinal cord and cell transplantation and nerve grafting. For those involved in research in this area, this book provides an excellent historical snap-shot of the work being done at that time.

The single article on neurorehabilitation is a review of a comprehensive rehabilitation unit whose main aim is early rehabilitation with all aspects of therapy involved from the outset. The goal is an ideal one – achieve optimal recovery of all aspects of life including physical, mental and social aspects.

The section on movement disorders is dominated by articles discussing deep brain stimulation (DBS). Microelectrode recording is reported as mandatory when inserting electrodes rather than as a complementary procedure. This may reflect a regional bias.

A wide variety of surgical solutions for pain modification are covered including cortical stimulation (motor cortex and anterior cingulate cortex), intrathecal baclofen treatment and DREZ lesions (both percutaneous and open). A wide range of pain disorders are covered with no generalization regarding the effectiveness of any specific technique.

The articles on epilepsy are an inhomogeneous group reporting on deep brain stimulation, vagus nerve stimulation or Gamma knife radiosurgery for seizure control. The spinal cord section consists of an experimental report regarding spinal cord stimulation and its effects on cerebral blood flow and a case report on the reversal of neurological deficits due to syringomyelia after decompression.

The revolutionary field of stem cell transplantation for regeneration of damaged nervous tissue is covered in the final section and is essentially a collection of articles on the role that stem cells may or may not play in future years. There is little in either of these sections that would be of use outside the experimental field.

This book covers a wide range of topics, not altogether related, as one would expect from a collection of articles from a symposium. The articles are generally short (up to six pages) and easily readable. It is a good summary of the topics covered by the Congresses but may be of little use for the majority of clinicians. It does however give a good example of the topics that were covered during the symposium.

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PROGRESS IN EPILEPTIC DISORDERS - PROGRESS IN EPILEPTIC SPASMS AND WEST SYNDROME. 2007. By Franco Guzzetta, Bernardo Dalla Bernardina, Renzo Guerrini. Published by Editions John Libbey Eurotext. 184 pages. Price C\$100.

West syndrome is characterized by infantile spasms and the EEG pattern of hypsarrhythmia. The syndrome is rare but usually disastrous with developmental regression and eventual mental retardation. This book begins with a notation: "A group of clinical researchers recently met in Rome to discuss hot points concerning infantile spasms and West Syndrome". We know little else about the meeting except that this book seems to summarize the "hot points"