

cortex. He addresses the neuromuscular junction in comparison to central axodendritic connections as well.

This small volume of essays is as important from the historical perspective in developmental neuroscience as from the perspective of the career scientific contributions of the author and his interpretation of them. It is well written and easily comprehensible to clinical neurologists, concise, interesting, and I recommend it to paediatric neurologists in particular, though with the caution that not all of the views put forth by the author are accepted as presented by all developmental neurobiologists.

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**MAGNETIC RESONANCE IN EPILEPSY.** 1994. By Ruben I. Kuzniecky and Graeme D. Jackson. Published by Raven Press. 361 pages. \$C143.00

This book is a new addition to the armamentarium of books on Magnetic Resonance Imaging, and fills a unique niche concentrating on the application of Magnetic Resonance to Epilepsy.

The book has been divided by the authors into 3 sections: 1) Basic principles (of epilepsy, magnetic resonance, and neuroimaging of epilepsy, including the role of Single photon computed tomography and positron emission tomography). 2) Structural Neuroimaging (including chapters on brain anatomy written by Henri Duvernoy and disorders of neuronal migration and organization written by A. James Barkovich, as well as specific neuroimaging of epilepsy by region and in conjunction with specific syndromes (predominantly stroke, and infection). 3) New techniques and applications, including spectroscopy, high resolution imaging and functional MRI. The final chapter of the book, by Jean Aicardi, summarizes the current state of MRI in epilepsy.

Overall, the book is well written and illustrated, as well as extensively referenced. The images and line drawings are mostly of excellent quality, and reflect current state of the art imaging. The various planes of imaging are depicted by both MR images, anatomic images and line drawings, and give an excellent approach to brain anatomy. The section on neurosurgical applications deals mainly with nonmagnetic electrodes and stereotactic localization; no mention is made of intraoperative MRI (either in this section or in the section on new applications and techniques). It does however, cover the postoperative appearance of the brain fairly well.

The chapter on spectroscopy, includes the basic theory of spectroscopy. The various spectroscopic techniques are explained in detail, and the differences between the various nuclei used and the problems associated with each are dealt with reasonably in the text. The chapters on ultra high field (4.1 T) imaging (for both high resolution as well as functional MRI) show the potential for these to produce not only high resolution images but also accurate mapping of areas of brain activation. The images in this section are of excellent quality, especially given the rapid developments in this area in the last year.

The book will appeal to a broad range of clinicians – neuroradiologists, neurosurgeons and neurologists, and even neuropathologists. It is easy to read for the most part (the section on the physics of spectroscopy is perhaps the only exception to this, reflecting the complexity of the subject). Sections from it will no doubt soon need updating because of the volume of new data (such as those on functional imaging, and intraoperative applications), but the chapters on imaging, epilepsy terminology, and correlative neuroanatomy will

remain an invaluable addition to the library of neuroradiologists and radiologists with a special interest in epilepsy.

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**MANUAL OF NEUROLOGIC THERAPEUTICS.** 5th Edition. 1994. Edited by Martin A. Samuels. Published by Little, Brown and Company Medical. 451 pages. \$C41.00

This manual is the latest edition of the spiral bound "pocket" manual designed to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of neurologic conditions. The manual is written as a tool for the non-neurologist involved in the primary care of neurologic patients. Like most general neurology texts this manual is multi-authored with the contributions of various experts being coordinated by an editor.

The book contains 17 chapters divided into two sections with the first section being symptom oriented and providing approaches to the common problems of coma, headache, intellectual dysfunction, dizziness, backache, epilepsy, brain death and the persistent vegetative state. The second section is organized by disease etiology (infectious disease, trauma, demyelinating disease, neoplastic disease, stroke, toxic and metabolic disease) or by anatomy (peripheral nerve and muscle, basal ganglia). In addition, a chapter on psychiatric conditions as well as one on the medical complications of chronic neurologic disease are included in the second section. Each disease is described in terms of its clinical presentation, the use of special diagnostic tests, and therapeutic options. The information is presented in concise paragraphs, lists, or tables allowing for easy quick-reference. While the manual attempts to be comprehensive, this varies considerably from chapter to chapter. For example, the chapter on intellectual decline includes descriptions of rare illnesses, such as Marchiafava-Bignami disease, while the chapter on stroke does not cover fundamental topics such as arterial dissection or vasculitis causing stroke. The clinical descriptions of diseases are succinct but occasionally important diagnostic information is left out. An example of this is the clinical description of neurosyphilis which does not include Argyll Robertson or tonic pupils. Practical information is provided on the special diagnostic tests available including the limitations of these tests. Most of the manual is dedicated to treatment options and for the most part provides comprehensive practical information. All the standard treatment options including dosages are provided. Side effects and complications are described, including laboratory parameters that need to be followed. An attempt has been made to include the more recent developments in neurologic therapeutics. The new anticonvulsants are introduced but important detail such as felbamate's potential for causing aplastic anemia is missing. However, sufficient practical information on tacrine, the latest drug released to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease, is provided for inexperienced clinicians.

Overall this manual is an excellent resource providing valuable information on the diagnosis and treatment of neurologic conditions. I highly recommend it for internists, neurology residents, and general practitioners involved in the primary care of neurologic patients.

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**NEUROLOGICAL COMPLICATIONS OF CANCER.** 1995. Edited by R.G. Wiley. Published by Marcel Dekker, Inc. New York. 568 pages. \$C241.00

In recent years, as the diagnosis and treatment of cancer has improved, neurological complications of cancer and of cancer