

The editors have put much thought and effort into preparing a review that would permit the greatest insight into the significance of interactions of these three systems.

The first seven chapters are developed with an underlying theme that soluble mediators of response subserve many of the functions within and between the three systems of interest, and that production of and receptors for these factors are shared by cellular elements of these systems. These soluble mediators can be subclassified conveniently by their sites of action and tissue concentration as ionic (micromol/mg), second messenger (nanomol/mg), and genomic (picomol/mg). The authors have developed these chapters in a logical fashion, culminating in chapters 6 and 7, "Influences of Hormones and Neuroactive Substances on Immune Function", and "Plasticity of Brain after Injury", both of which are particularly informative.

The final chapter, in some respects, detracts from the overall quality of the monograph. The authors have concentrated on conditions where a "neuro-endocrine-immune connection" is tenuous at best. The reader uninitiated to this area would have been better served by a clear and concise review of those clinical entities where the connection is well established. For example, instead of a discussion on the postviral fatigue syndrome, myasthenia gravis and the neural influence on joint inflammation might have been covered. The neuroendocrine relationships that subserve the migraine syndrome and the premenstrual syndrome deserve at least as much discussion as the neuro-anatomical and electroencephalographic findings in dyslexia.

For attempting to foster the interdisciplinary communication that remains an important factor in advances in understanding of basic biological processes, the editors are to be commended. While attempting to reach an uninitiated audience, however, they have undershot their mark and have compounded this problem by relying more on clinical obscurities than on established conditions that would put the "neuro-immune-endocrine connection" in its proper perspective.

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MYELOYDYSPLASIAS AND EXTROPHIES: SIGNIFICANCE, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT. Edited by David B. Shurtleff. Published by Grune & Stratton, Incorporated, 1986. 591 pages. \$86.50Cdn.

This interesting volume describes the experience of the Seattle myelomeningocele team in dealing with children with complex congenital abnormalities, including the extrophies and myelodysplasia. The clinical experience has been drawn from a computerized data file that has evolved over a period of 28 years. The material has been compiled by 8 authors and 14 researchers, with criticism and suggestions provided by 9 reviewers. The authors include physicians, surgeons, psychologists, educators, nurses and several therapists.

The first section titled "History and Philosophy" includes a good discussion of the decision making process for the treatment or nontreatment of congenitally malformed individuals. Readers outside of the United States will be interested to know of American laws establishing the legal right for treatment for malformed infants and children.

Section II "Initial Medical Treatment" includes discussion of embryology and embryopathology, etiology, and some examples of the Seattle experience with management of cases diagnosed in utero. In considering management options, the authors completely ignore the maternal risk of cesarean section. The risk of infection of a myelomeningocele during vaginal delivery, and in the immediate hours following birth, seemed to be exaggerated from my experience.

The third section on "Management of the Neurogenic Bowel and Bladder" includes a great deal of information which will be of help to family physicians, pediatricians, nurses, and parents of children with myelodysplasia. The emphasis of the Seattle group in teaching children self-care skills at the earliest age possible is of great interest. This theme is continued into the fourth section, "Establishing Lifelong Health Patterns". This section includes chapters on dietary management, decubitus formation, and mobility.

Section V: "Developmental Expectations and Therapeutic/Educational Approaches" includes a discussion of intelligence, fine motor skills, and approaches to facilitate independent self-care.

The final two sections, "Psychosocial Adjustment" and "Long-term Management" include discussions of the impact of a congenitally malformed child on the family, as well as the problem of social isolation for the impaired adolescent. The increased survival of children with myelodysplasia has resulted in an adult population, with rather unique health care needs.

There is a great deal of information in this book, and I highly recommend it for physicians who deal with children with these congenital abnormalities. Selected parts of it should be of interest to obstetricians as well. It should be present in all myelomeningocele clinics, as it nicely documents the team approach to this problem, and provides results which other teams can use for comparison purposes.

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HANDBOOK OF NEUROTOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS. Edited by J.W. House and A.F. O'Connor. Published by Marcel Dekker, New York, 1987. 432 pages. \$106Cdn approx.

Neurotology concerns the disorders of the inner ear and its cerebral connections. The diagnosis of these disorders is as difficult as their symptoms are common. This handbook contains 12 chapters on the various procedures that may help in evaluating the patient presenting with such symptoms. The book would have been easier to read if there were introductory chapters on the anatomy and physiology of the ear. The actual contributions vary in their quality.

Several of the chapters are excellent. Lo and Solti-Bohman provide a comprehensive and well organized review of computer tomography illustrated by an excellent series of photographs. Adour has written a clear outline of how to evaluate the patient with facial nerve problems. This chapter contains some really well drawn figures of the anatomy of the facial nerve. Luxon and Raglan review the neurological examination of the neurological patient and provide an extensive list of references.

Unfortunately, some of the chapters in the book are really not worth reading. The introductory chapter on the clinical