

BOOKS RECEIVED

INTRODUCTION TO THE SENSES: FROM BIOLOGY TO COMPUTER SCIENCE. 2012. By Terry R.J. Bossomaier. Published by Cambridge University Press. 345 pages. C\$75.00 approx.

SURGERY OF THE CRANIOVERTEBRAL JUNCTION. SECOND EDITION. 2013. Edited By Nicholas C. Bambakidis, Curtis A. Dickman, Robert F. Spetzler, Volker K.H. Sonntag. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 546 pages. C\$350.00 approx.

NEUROGENETICS: A GUIDE FOR CLINICIANS. 2012. Edited By Nicholas W. Wood. Published by Cambridge University Press. 241 pages. C\$70.00 approx.

CLINICAL TRIALS IN NEUROLOGY: DESIGN, CONDUCT, ANALYSIS. 2012. Edited By Bernard Ravina, Jeffrey Cummings, Michael P. McDermott, R. Michael Poole. Published by Cambridge University Press. 369 pages. C\$110.00 approx.

INTRODUCTION TO EPILEPSY. 2012. Edited By Gonzalo Alarcón and Antonio Valentín. Published by Cambridge University Press. 605 pages. C\$90.00 approx.

HYPERKINETIC MOVEMENT DISORDERS. 2012. Edited By Oksana Suchowersky, Cynthia Comella. Published by Humana Press. 288 pages. C\$190.00 approx.

NOBACK'S HUMAN NERVOUS SYSTEM. SEVENTH EDITION. Structure and Function. 2012. By Norman L. Strominger, Robert J. Demarest, Lois B. Laemle. Published by Humana Press. 469 pages. C\$210.00 approx.

BOOKS REVIEWED

ADULT EPILEPSY. 2011. Edited by Gregory D. Cascino, Joseph I. Sirven. Published by Wiley-Blackwell. 307 pages. C\$175 approx.

Rated ☆☆☆

This is a small textbook of 17 chapters written by 19 authors all associated with one of the three branches of the Mayo Clinic and based on presentations given at an epilepsy course sponsored by that institution. As such, it is a fairly practical assessment of the current approach to epilepsy with sections on the pathophysiology and epidemiology of seizures, diagnosis and drug treatment, generalized and partial epilepsies.

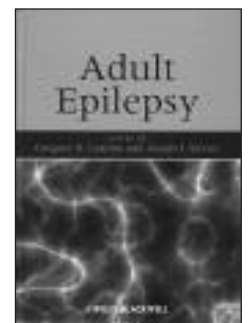
The chapters are generally well organized and easily readable with judicious use of tables and adequate references to the literature. Many topics, however, are covered only briefly or not at all. For example, there is a chapter on mesial temporal lobe epilepsy but only one brief paragraph on frontal lobe epilepsy and nothing on occipital lobe epilepsy except in childhood. Post stroke seizures warrants one paragraph and seizures in dementia gets one sentence. Not addressed in any detail are psychological, psychiatric and socioeconomic aspects of epilepsy, sudden unexplained death in epilepsy (SUDEP), comorbidities and clobazam (the Mayo course must have been before the recent introduction of this commonly used drug to the USA).

I am not sure why the book is titled "Adult Epilepsy" as four of the authors are associated with pediatrics and write from that perspective about such conditions as febrile seizures and West syndrome. In the epilepsy world, the separation between adult and pediatric practice is somewhat artificial anyway with the exception of neonatal disorders, an area not to be approached by the meek.

As an epileptologist, what did I learn from this book? Well, I didn't know that the pioneering work of Hans Berger on EEG was translated from the original German to English not only by Dr Pierre Gloor of Montreal but also by Dr Charles Yeager one of the first electroencephalographers at the Mayo Clinic. Unfortunately the latter version apparently was lost.

I was also reminded that epilepsy terminology is becoming needlessly complex. For example, there are chapters on "Substrate-directed epilepsy" and "Non-substrate-directed partial epilepsy". In case you have not heard of these terms, they refer to lesional or non-lesional focal epilepsy as determined by MRI. We also have the syndromes of FIRE, DESC, NORSE and AERRPS, all referring to refractory status epilepticus of unknown cause. As the March Hare said to Alice "You should say what you mean".

To summarize, this book can be used as a practical guide to the diagnosis and management of many of the common aspects of epilepsy. It is suitable for the general neurologist, non-neurologist or trainee who wants a quick review of a specific topic or a general survey of the whole field. What is covered is reasonably well done but there is a lot left out. It will thus be of marginal interest to those working in epilepsy or to anyone seeking detailed information about specific aspects of seizure disorders.



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