

Book Reviews

NEUROLOGICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SYSTEMIC DISEASES IN CHILDREN. 1993. Edited by Avraham Steinberg and Yitzchak Frank. Published by Raven Press. 399 pages. \$114 Cdn. approx.

This volume is the latest in The International Review of Child Neurology series. The editors indicate that their goal is to complement textbooks in pediatrics and pediatric neurology. The arrangement of the book is similar to that of standard pediatric textbooks and is divided into 8 chapters, each of about 40 pages.

The first chapter provides an overview of the neurological manifestations of malnutrition. The chapter is well laid out and the references are divided into easily used sections on general malnutrition, vitamins and trace elements. The subsequent chapters deal with rheumatic and infectious diseases, and the gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, renal, cardiac and endocrine systems.

While each chapter is quite comprehensive, most sections are brief. The style is clear and consistent throughout the book and the presentation allows it to be easily read. The organization is designed for easy use, for example the chapter of gastrointestinal diseases is divided into sections on malabsorption syndromes, enteric infections, chronic inflammatory bowel diseases, anatomic disorders and "miscellaneous". Many topics are presented with subheadings of pathophysiology, neuropathology, clinical picture, laboratory tests and treatment. Each chapter contains a number of useful tables containing differential diagnoses and syndromes with their major systemic and neurological manifestations.

While not a complete resource for neurological complications of systemic disease in children, the editors are successful in their goal of producing a book which summarizes current information on this topic and which will complement textbooks in pediatrics. The organization of the book allows it to be used as a useful reference source for both pediatricians and pediatric neurologists. It deserves to be part of the office library of all those who treat children.

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INTERVENTIONAL NEURORADIOLOGY: ENDOVASCULAR THERAPY OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM. Edited by Fernando Vinuela, Van V. Halbach and Jacques E. Dion. Published by Raven Press. \$114 Cdn. approx.

Drs. Vinuela, Halbach, and Dion have drawn from their experience and the contributing authors to create an introductory textbook in Interventional Neuroradiology, describing current concepts and techniques. This textbook reads easily and the illustrations are good. The introductory chapter unfortunately refers to outdated classifications of vascular malformations and neoplasms. The current status of embolic materials, as far as regulatory agencies in North America are concerned, is also not mentioned. The chapter dealing with endovascular treatment of dural vascular malformations is comprehensive and of high quality, as are the chapters on vein of Galen malformation, stroke and chemotherapy. The chapter on brain vascular malformations is limited in scope, lacks detail and does not contain adequate literature review. The two chapters dealing with endovascular treatment of intracranial aneurysms reflect the transition phase of aneurysm treatment at that time with different

approaches succeeding each other. It could have been dealt with in one single chapter.

With few exceptions, most chapters are lacking sufficient detail to assist interventional neuroradiologists in their current practice. The text appears to be more geared towards those physicians who would like to be informed and updated on interventional techniques currently available. As such, the text fills a need and is recommended for neurologists, neurosurgeons and neuroradiologists not actively participating in interventional neuroradiological techniques.

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EPILEPTOGENIC AND EXCITOTOXIC MECHANISMS: CURRENT PROBLEMS IN EPILEPSY. VOLUME 8. 1993. Edited by Avanzini, Fariello, Heinemann, Mutani. Published by John Libbey and Co. Ltd., London. 158 pages. \$77 Cdn. approx.

This is another in the genre of multi-authored monographs based on lectures given at a course, in this case one on epilepsy held in Sicily in January, 1992. With the exception that the print is too small, there is nothing inherently wrong with this book; however, I found it a chore to get through and would have preferred to attend the lectures. The 40 authors are by and large, experienced scientists who describe their own and others' work to review "the basic mechanism of epilepsy with special emphasis on seizure-induced cellular damage in the developing brain". Half of the fourteen chapters discuss current thinking (current being 1991-1992) about mechanisms of focal or generalized epilepsy and the other half review epileptogenesis in relation to brain maturation. Despite the title of the book, only one chapter deals specifically with excitotoxicity. The quality of individual chapters varies from poor to very good. This is not a book for the novice since most authors assume a familiarity with the subject which I suspect many will not have. If you know what the "CA₃ region" is or a "dendritic Na spike", then you should not have a problem. Among the more interesting general themes reviewed are: 1) epileptogenesis relates to one or a combination of intrinsic neuronal membrane defects, decreased synaptic inhibition or increased excitation, 2) considerable regulation of generalized epileptogenesis occurs in subcortical regions, 3) inhibitory systems develop later than excitatory ones during maturation, 4) kindling occurs more readily in the immature brain, 5) glutamate is necessary for brain development but paradoxically restricts brain growth if released in excess during seizures. Diehard fans of basic mechanisms of the epilepsies, university libraries and possibly the authors' mothers will be the main purchasers of this book. The rest of us are better advised to borrow it if required from one of these sources.

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WOMEN AND EPILEPSY. 1991. Edited by M.R. Trimble. Published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd. 285 pages.

This is a book based on a meeting about women and epilepsy, but it goes much further than a report of conference proceedings. It includes 16 chapters by different authors on the theme of aspects of