

- d) cells and structures other than muscle fibers, that are seen in skeletal muscle.

The last half of the text deals with specific diseases that affect skeletal muscle. In all sections the findings are described in terms of light microscopy of frozen (routine stains and enzyme histochemistry) and resin sections and electron microscopy.

In almost all instances, the pictures are good examples of the particular phenomenon or disease entity being described and they are of excellent technical quality. I suspect that the occasional colour plate is not an accurate reproduction of the colouring of the original section and I believe that use of a slightly higher power photograph would have made it easier for non-experts to appreciate the specific finding being portrayed in a few instances.

In my opinion, this is the best and most complete book available on skeletal muscle pathology today and I believe that it will quickly become the standard teaching and reference text on this subject. All departments of pathology and neurology should have copies in their libraries.

The last 25 years have seen major advances made in the field of skeletal muscle pathology and this book is a true reflection of these changes. Significant future advances in the field of skeletal muscle pathology will be dependent on the development of novel methods of study.

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NEUROLOGY — THE PHYSICIAN'S GUIDE. 1984. Robert G. Feldman. Thieme-Stratton Inc. New York. 276 pages. \$39.75.

This text has as its rationale a method of approach for the recognition, diagnosis and treatment of common neurological problems to be utilized by the neurologically unsophisticated or uncertain primary care physician. This is indeed a laudable goal, one which regrettably has not been adequately realized.

The initial chapter attempts to convey examination subtleties and skills, the refinement of which can only be learned after years of observation, practice and hands-on experience, the opportunity and time for which will not be available to the primary care physician.

The next chapter while correctly emphasizing the need and value of appropriate referral then proceeds to outline in great detail, stressing the decision making processes involved, all of the sophisticated tests and investigations presumably at one's disposal. Such information is indeed pertinent but for the specialist not the primary care physician.

The remaining fourteen chapters are devoted either to symptoms *ie.*, headache or to specific neurological disorders *ie.*,

multiple sclerosis. Though providing a plethora of information frequently it is much too detailed and complex, thereby being of little relevant value for the primary care physician. Terms and phrases are often used without adequate explanation or definition. Also the attempt at brevity versus the desire for completeness has led to compression and over simplification resulting in errors and inconsistencies as well as statements which are incorrect, inappropriate or misleading *ie.*, (a) lumbar puncture should be performed in the investigation of a newly diagnosed seizure disorder, (b) drug holiday useful in the management of Parkinson's disease and that (c) all stroke patients must have both a plain and an enhanced CT scan, this investigative modality being inappropriately equated with the requirement for a chest x-ray and EKG in the management of a patient with chest pain. This is most distressing as it conveys to the majority of primary care physicians who practice in areas far removed from the availability of CT scan that their stroke patients are being inadequately managed.

Multiple authorship has resulted in a markedly uneven content. The chapters on states of altered consciousness as well as dizziness, vertigo and unsteadiness are done in an exceedingly poor fashion. Surprisingly no chapters have been devoted to the topics of head trauma, infections or tumour which surely are matters of concern to every primary care or non-neurological emergency room physician.

Attempts have been made in most chapters to provide therapeutic advice, however the complexities and nuances are so thoroughly portrayed (most particularly re Parkinson's disease) that most primary care physicians, indeed many neurologists, would not venture to initiate such management.

There are several very commendable chapters most particularly those devoted to multiple sclerosis, brain and behavior, neurological complications which may occur during pregnancy or in association with excess alcohol intake, occupational and environmental neurology and in the chapter on pediatric neurology, the section dealing with the attention deficit disorder.

This book may be recommended for those already partially or totally conversant with the field of neurology *ie.*, would prove most useful for residents in training. However it cannot be advised for its intended audience, *ie.*, primary care physicians. This is most regrettable as there is indeed a compelling need for a neurological textbook that offers a limited body of practical knowledge, a workable approach and meaningful advice and guidance to such physicians.

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