data were subjected to complex mathematical analyses and five subgroups of psychomotor seizures were identified. The commonest type was the temporobasal — limbic type and the less frequent ones were the temporal pole type, the posterior neocortical type, the frontobasalcingulate type and the opercular type. These five subgroups, defined on the basis of their focus of origin using depth EEG recordings, showed preferential routes of electrical spread through the cerebrum. They also showed different, but overlapping constellations of clinical features. The author suggested strategies for the surgical treatment of the five seizure types. Proof of the value of these strategies, as compared to standard surgical approaches, is lacking at present because of the small number of patients studied to date.

The strengths of this work lie in the extensive review of the subject covering English, French and German language publications, in the provocative electroclinical findings and in the suggestions for improved therapy. The weaknesses relate largely to presentation. One third of the volume is devoted to mathematical analyses that this reviewer found incomprehensible. Also, the case reports were not presented in a manner that sufficiently emphasized the outstanding points of interest of each case.

Overall, the volume is a valuable contribution to the study of psychomotor seizures and should be read by all those with an interest in the field.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM. Edited by Richard A. Thompson and John R. Green. Published by S.P. Medical and Scientific Books. 256 pages. $40.00.

This volume is a collection of papers presented at a symposium discussing infectious diseases of the central nervous system sponsored by the Barrow Neurological Institute and Foundation. It is the second in a series entitled 'Neurologic illness: Diagnosis and treatment'. The editors' remark in the preface that the book is not intended to be an exhaustive review of the title topic but does attempt to emphasize recent developments and new information. Thus, many important CNS infections, including tuberculosis meningitis, most fungal meningitides, neurosyphilis, and the bunyavirus and togavirus encephalidites are not discussed.

The editors of any book which is a compilation of papers submitted from a symposium will have problems maintaining consistency of content and quality of contributions, and this book is a example of such difficulty. The chapters generally offer one of three different approaches to their subjects. These include several chapters which provide complete and in depth reviews of their topics, such as slow virus diseases and prions. Other chapters, including the chapters on *Herpes simplex* infections and acute immune-mediated diseases provide more superficial reviews, and the absence of precise details limits their value for any reader searching for assistance with 'Diagnosis and treatment' of these problems. Finally, some contributors have chosen to discuss specific aspects of a given topic and the chapter content does not reflect the chapter title. For instance, the chapter on pathophysiology of bacterial meningitis limits its discussion to preliminary work studying the CSF polymorphonuclear response in that disease, and the chapter on parasitic infections discusses completely only the surgical aspects of the management of parasitic infections of the central nervous system.

The chapters on bacterial meningitis and brain abscess provide useful tables of antimicrobials and doses recommended for treatment of these diseases. However, in the chapter discussing herpes simplex infections the appropriate dose and duration of antiviral therapy is never stated. Important and potentially useful chapters for practitioners, including those in CNS shunt infections and neurosurgical infections, are marred by a lack of critical evaluation of data, particularly with respect to prophylactic antimicrobials. While there is a need for clearer delineation of the appropriate use of antibiotics in prophylaxis and therapy of CNS shunt and neurosurgical infections, the authors of these chapters appear to endorse the evaluation of such therapy through retrospective, uncontrolled surveys rather than through properly designed prospective, randomized studies. The discussion of coccidioidomycosis infection would have been more useful if the author's experience and approach to management were presented in tabular form or as an algorithm rather than as an anecdotal collection of case histories. Therapeutic information provided in several instances, such as the use of third generation cephalosporins in the treatment of gram-negative meningitis and praziquantel for the treatment of cerebral cysticercosis, is already outdated because of recent reports of the efficacy of these drugs. Finally, there are numerous typographical errors, some of which are of importance, such as the use of 'litigation' for 'ligation', and 'microbacteria' for 'mycobacteria', and some merely irritating, such as the replacement of letters by numbers.

This text cannot be recommended for individuals, including most clinical practitioners, who are looking for a complete, concise and critical review of the subject of the management of infections of the central nervous system. However, individuals with an interest in some specific topics in this area may find certain chapters to be useful reviews.

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PERIPHERAL NERVE DISORDERS — A PRACTICAL APPROACH. 1984. Edited by A.K. Asbury and R.W. Gilliatt. Published by Butterworth and Co. Ltd. 339 pages.

Peripheral Nerve Disorders is the fourth in a series of volumes published by Butterworth and Co. as the successor to *Modern Trends in Neurology*, the periodic reviews on neurologic topics that appeared between 1951 and 1975 under the editorship of Dr. Denis Williams. The current series of monographs was designed by its editors, C.D. Marsden and A.K. Asbury, to review areas of neurologic interest where there have been significant advances that have practical applications for clinicians involved with patients with neurologic disorders. *Peripheral Nerve Disorders*, edited by A.K. Asbury and R.W. Gilliatt, admirably fulfills this objective.

The opening chapter, written by the editors themselves, sets the tone of the monograph by presenting a practical approach to patients with neuropathy that incorporates a contemporary view of the histopathogenesis of nerve disorders, discusses their general clinical features, outlines the uses of electrodiagnostic tests, and commendably cautions readers about the restricted usefulness and potential hazards of nerve biopsy. Based on their acknowledged experience as peripheral nerve specialists, Asbury and Gilliatt include a flow-diagram approach for the assessment of patients with neuropathies. Such guidelines are particularly helpful to clinicians, whether residents or general neurologists, as they attempt to investigate and treat patients with chronic undiagnosed polyneuropathies, a syndrome for which even specialized centers fail to establish an etiologic diagnosis in as many as 25% of patients. The approach given in Figure 1.1 involves the clinical classification of peripheral nerve

disorders as mononeuropathies, multiple mononeuropathies, or polyneuropathies and their electrophysiologic designation as predominantly axonal or demyelinating. This is a helpful guide even though it does not incorporate further subclassification by predominant clinical pattern that appears to relate to nerve fiber type. The usefulness of this approach might also have been strengthened by the inclusion of specific items of differential diagnosis. But these are suggestions for future editions of the book rather than major criticisms!

Other chapters, written by eighteen contributors recognized for their particular expertise, deal succinctly with the main categories of peripheral nerve disease. The chapters dealing with the management of Guillain-Barré syndrome, the classification and characteristics of the inherited neuropathies, and the pathophysiology of the neuropathies due to nerve compression and entrapment are particularly illuminating.

The concluding chapters on peripheral neuropathies in India, Japan and Africa are an additional commendable feature of this book. Not only will these chapters serve to acquaint European and North American neurologists with the fascinating spectrum of peripheral neuropathies encountered by colleagues in other parts of the world, they will also form a useful framework for appreciating the diagnostic possibilities for neuropathies among travellers to and from these once-distant lands.

The thirteen chapters of *Peripheral Nerve Disorders* represent appropriately balanced reviews that combine the essential facts about particular neuropathies with recently-acquired knowledge concerning pathogenesis and management. Although multi-authored, the chapters are well-organized and readable with helpful illustrations and references that appear to be current and complete. The absence of any detailed consideration of disorders of the major plexuses and proximal nerves and the value of computerized tomography in their assessment appears to be the only significant omission.

At a time when publications on specific categories of neurologic disease are tending to become encyclopedic, it is a joy to have available a book such as *Peripheral Nerve Disorders* that covers the topic so effectively and efficiently. It can be recommended enthusiastically for students, residents and practitioners who see patients with diseases of the peripheral nervous system. One can only hope that, in the tradition of *Modern Trends in Neurology*, subsequent editions will be published to permit readers to keep abreast with this advancing field.

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A GUIDE TO NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROSURGICAL NURSING. 1983. By Mariah Snyder. Published by John Wiley & Sons. 613 pages.

This textbook is divided into two parts. In the first part, the author presents an overview of neurological and neurosurgical nursing and discusses the nursing process. She also includes basic anatomy and physiology, common diagnostic tests and surgical procedures, and frequently used medications. She stresses that this part is background and a reference point for the content found in part II. She clearly states that it is her assumption the reader will have already mastered basic theory and that the book is primarily written for nurses practicing in the field of neurological and neurosurgical nursing.

In part II, the author focuses on specific nursing diagnoses that are common to patients with neurological and neurosurgical conditions. The nursing diagnoses were chosen from the National Conferences on the Classification on Nursing Diagnosis. Each chapter provides an overview of the nursing diagnosis with definitions, characteristics, a framework for evaluation, related anatomy and physiology, and related theories and research. This is then followed by conditions (disorders) for which the nursing diagnosis is frequently made and, in addition, there is a discussion of these conditions with definitions, assessment and diagnostic studies, medical and surgical treatment, and related pharmacology. Nursing care is presented in light of the nursing process which consists of assessment, planning, interventions and evaluation. The inclusion of suggested areas for nursing research is a special feature of this book.

Part I of this book was found to be superfluous. The author claims to cater to the nurse who already has background in neurological and neurosurgical nursing, and yet, she spends time going over very elementary anatomy, physiology, diagnostic studies and pharmacology. These topics are sufficiently covered in part II. Also in part I, the author discusses the nursing process and gives us a 'crash' course in nursing issues. The nursing process is curriculum in every nursing school and is not necessary in this text. It is important to keep in mind that nursing issues outdate rapidly and should not be part of a specialty textbook.

Nursing diagnosis is used as the organizational basis for part II. In this respect, this book is very unique and innovative. This format eliminates the repetition encountered in disease-oriented formats and encourages the practitioner to use nursing diagnosis in planning care for neurological and neurosurgical patients. The use of the nursing process eases the transfer of knowledge to practice. As well, the inclusion of suggested areas for nursing research is definitely stimulating. The practicing neurological and neurosurgical nurse would certainly find part II of this text to be a valuable resource.

The author ends this publication with a chapter on "Neurological Nursing Tomorrow". This topic is mentioned very briefly with respect to the breakpoints affecting the specialty while the remainder of the chapter is dedicated to future nursing issues in general. Again, a topic of this sort dates rapidly. It should be included in a journal article and not a textbook. This chapter could have been more effective had the author concentrated solely on neurological nursing of tomorrow.

Overall, this textbook might have been better using only part II along with a good introduction to neuronursing as a specialty and a thorough discussion of the assessment tools used. Part II is the only section worthwhile reading for the nurse practicing in the field of neurological and neurosurgical nursing.

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HANDBOOK OF SHOCK AND TRAUMA. Volume 1: Basic Science. Edited by Burton M. Altura, Allan M. Lefer and William Schumer. Published by Raven Press, Medical and Scientific Publishers. 484 pages. $58.00 Cdn.

Man in modern society has had to pay dearly for his conveniences. The advent of the automobile and motorcycle on high speed highways have led to the frequent admission to hospital of patients with multiple trauma including severe head injuries. The care of these patients in turn has lead to the development of multidisciplinary Intensive Care Units as well as the inevitable volumes of literature both in the basic science and in the therapeutic realm of multiple trauma. Most recent textbooks that address the problems in the Intensive Care Unit are multidisciplinary and, therefore, necessarily cannot be