reflection of Arabic understanding of the brain and spinal cord, at that time, then clearly it was quite advanced. In the Renaissance chapter, he quotes Guy de Chauliac's surgeon's code which expresses many of the same sentiments as the Hippocratic Oath. He carefully outlines and documents the first individual or group of individuals that discovered or related common neurological syndromes and neurosurgical conditions.

The volume is heavily illustrated but the quality of some of the illustrations is poor and in a small format. An attempt has been made to place the illustration close to where that particular concept is illustrated. Pictures of the myriad of individuals associated with the progress of neuroscience are included, many from Dr. Walker's collection. Dr. Walker has also added a number of tables in which he has attempted to collate information in a more understandable format. One frustrating aspect of the volume relates to the reference structure. Although, a very valuable listing of references can be found in the reference section, each listing is not referenced directly in the text. At times, this makes it difficult to locate the appropriate reference especially if a particular author has multiple contributions. The references are, however, alphabetical and one is able, with a little work, to coordinate the name and the year in which a particular event has occurred and find the reference.

To anyone interested in the history of the neurosciences, this book provides an exciting overview with carefully documented historical information on the diseases that a neurosurgeon or neurologist encounters. This is the type of book that one reads and at the end, has an appreciation for the love that Dr. Walker had for the history of the neurosciences. Anyone owning this book would return to it again and again, outlining specific pages and quotations which underline the romance of the study of the brain; the most complex object in the universe.

R.F. Del Maestro
London, Ontario

NEUROLOGY AND THE LAW. PRIVATE LITIGATION AND PUBLIC POLICY. 1998. By Richard Beresford. Published by Oxford University Press Canada. 188 pages. $C133.50

As a Professor of Neurology at the University of Rochester and an Adjunct Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience at Cornell, the author is eminently qualified to address the topic of Neurology and the Law in the United States. The book represents an update of an earlier monograph. The field of private litigation is covered under the headings of the problem and definition of malpractice; the malpractice action and a hypothetical case; the standard of care and causation; failure to obtain informed consent; the vicarious liability of medical educators, supervisors and hospitals; the determination of damage; the categorizing of medical errors into technical, judgmental and conceptual; disputes over credentials as they involve professional bodies, hospital privileges and professional associations; scientific misconduct, its identification, adjudication and the protection of individual rights; and the doctor as a criminal defendant.

Part Two of the book deals with the neurologist as an expert, the Federal Rules of Evidence, coping with the partisan expert and the conduct of the medical expert when testifying, and the special problem of testifying where there is malpractice, disputed causation or pain without adequate objective findings. The legal and ethical issues of withholding life support and physician-assisted dying, of research in neurologically-impaired subjects, of breach of confidentiality and conflict of interest situations are discussed. Neurology, the law and the changing marketplace as it involves cost-containment, American anti-trust law, the problems of the non-profit hospital and the for-profit corporate medical facility are also dealt with. Healthcare reform, its economic considerations, proposed managed care as a reform, the threats of managed care and the pitfalls of activism are also considered.

The writing is scholarly, thoroughly researched and it contains frequent references to and analyses of U.S. Court decisions, of federal rules which govern evidence and of relevant statutes. The author's expertise as a neurologist as well as a lawyer has led to an extensive and authoritative review of the inter-relationship of neurology and law as it exists in the United States. Understandably, many of the legal and statutory considerations do not apply to neurologic or medical practice in Canada although the issues of health economics and managed care and, to some extent, malpractice, may portend future developments in this country. The sections on the role of the neurologist as expert witness, on preparation for and conduct during testimony and cross-examination and the practical insights derived from the author's neurologic and legal expertise and accomplishments are of considerable value to the Canadian neurologist.

The book is a learned treatise on the practice of neurology and its professional, legal, institutional, ethical and public policy considerations, as they presently pertain in the United States, with much information and useful advice for the Canadian neurologist and for those interested in the comparative developments of such issues.

Henry Berry
Toronto, Ontario

ESSENTIAL PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY: NEUROSCIENTIFIC BASIS AND CLINICAL APPLICATIONS. 1998. By Stephen M. Stahl. Published by Cambridge University Press. $C76.93. Note: This is a CD-ROM only.

Psychopharmacology is a fast-moving field, with discoveries of new drugs, and new effects of old drugs occurring on an annual basis. Thus it is imperative that the clinician and basic scientist have a relatively up-to-date reference available. To a certain extent, the CD companion to Stahl's textbook meets these needs. It covers the basics of neuropharmacology, receptor pharmacology, psychiatric disorders and their treatments, biological effects of most classes of drugs used in treating psychiatric disease and drugs of abuse. Rather than an in-depth reference volume, this CD is pitched at more of an introductory, undergraduate level; I believe that it would be understandable by students lacking significant neuroscience and pharmacology background. To the best of my knowledge, the facts were correct and reasonably up-to-date. Nonetheless, as would be expected in an active field, recent advances such as the identification of the endogenous cannabinoid ligand were lacking. Even at the undergraduate level, it would appear useful to point the student to additional references where they could obtain more detail, but such information was lacking.

I loaded the CD-ROM on a Pentium II running Windows 95 at 75 Mhz with 32 Meg of RAM. On my 16x CD player it worked well and moved with reasonable speed from one frame to another. Figures were clear and each window had an accompanying text