

Books Received

ALLOSTASIS, HOMEOSTASIS AND THE COST OF PHYSIOLOGICAL ADAPTATION. 2004. Edited by Jay Schulkin. Published by Cambridge University Press. 372 pages C\$140.00 approx.

ASPHASIA AND RELATED NEUROGENIC LANGUAGE DISORDERS. 2005. By Leonard L. Lapointe. Published by Thieme. 296 pages C\$90.00 approx.

BEYOND NATURE-NURTURE. 2005. Edited by Michael Tomasello, Dan Isaac Slobin. Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc. 315 pages C\$90.00 approx.

CEREBRAL VASOSPASM: ADVANCES IN RESEARCH AND TREATMENT. 2005. By R. Loch Macdonald. Published by Thieme. 333 pages C\$200.00 approx.

NEUROSURGERY BOARD REVIEW. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT - SECOND EDITION. 2005. By Cargill H. Alleyne Jr., Jonathan Stuart Citow. Published by Thieme. 272 pages C\$70.00 approx.

NEUROTRAUMA: EVIDENCE-BASED ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS. 2005. By Alex B. Valadka, Brian T. Andrews. Published by Thieme. 312 pages C\$140.00 approx.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF THE SPINE. 2005. By Todd J. Albert, Alexander R. Vaccaro. Published by Thieme. 144 pages C\$90.00 approx.

PLASTIC TECHNIQUES IN NEUROSURGERY. 2ND EDITION. 2004. By James Tait Goodrich, David A. Staffenberg. Published by Thieme New York. 164 pages C\$230.00 approx.

PRINCIPLES OF BRAIN EVOLUTION. 2005. By Georg F. Striedter. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 436 pages C\$90.00 approx.

PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY DRUGS, THE BRAIN, AND BEHAVIOR. 2005. By Jerrold S. Meyer, Linda F. Quenzer. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 555 pages C\$100.00 approx.

REFLEX EPILEPSIES: PROGRESS IN UNDERSTANDING. 2004. By Peter Wolf, Yushi Inoue, Benjamin Zifkin. Published by John Libbey Eurotext Limited. 200 pages C\$125.00 approx.

THE CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF CRANIOSYNOSTOSIS. 2004. Edited by Richard Hayward, Barry Jones, David Dunaway, Robert Evans. Published by Cambridge University Press. 438 pages C\$180.00 approx.

Book Reviews

NEUROLOGY SURVIVAL GUIDE. 2003. Edited by Dave A. Rengachary. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 366 Pages. C\$40 approx.

The Neurology Survival Guide is one book in the series of the Washington Manual Survival Guides. The book is intended to be a ready pocket reference for residents, with particular attention paid toward urgent inpatient issues. Topics are well-outlined and include useful tables and references not seen in other similar books. Although, the text could go further to explain background information that would be helpful for new or off service residents. Overall, this is a valuable aid for neurology residents throughout their training.

Balancing a compact style of writing and ease of use are always a challenge for condensed reference books. The format of this text follows an efficient use of bold headlines and bullet points. This style allows the reader to quickly skim the text as seen in the comprehensive but compact list of central nervous system infections. Unique topics are also covered such as the chapter dedicated to stroke trials. This makes the reference more valuable to beginning and senior neurology residents who have a background understanding.

Residents or clerks, with little neurological background, may find similar pocket books easier to use. Some of the basic issues, like physical exam, are not reviewed as completely as more introductory pocket guides. This type of reader is helped by the use of tables for specific differentials and advisory comments under such titles as

“clues” and “red flags.” These readers may need other texts to help supplement this information or explain some of the detail captured in the text.

The authors must make many choices about what not to include in a book designed to fit in your coat pocket. The authors of this book rightly chose to focus on inpatient issues that might need to be urgently managed by a resident in the middle of the night. To increase the efficiency of searching text, the editor has structured the chapters by combining clinical presentations (i.e. Low Back Pain), clinical subspecialties, and supportive fields (i.e. Neuroimaging). This last addition is unique for such books and provides an excellent and concise review of introductory issues in neuroimaging. To further aid the reader, an extensive appendix follows and includes useful calculations, glossary, and web references. The inclusion of the McDonald Criteria for MS is indicative of the extensive information found within the book. The index is well-written and cross-referenced.

The authors must be commended for their completeness in outlining management plan templates. Similar books often provide things to consider without clearly documenting steps, doses, and treatment goals. Thankfully, this book does an excellent job at nailing down specifics and including target values for diagnostic tests.

A reference this size cannot be all things to all readers. It is best suited for neurology residents, both junior and senior, and those clerks or off service residents with a good foundation in neurology