

Stroke is the third most common cause of death in North America. It remains the most neglected chronic neurological disorder. In the last decade there have been significant gains in understanding epidemiology of risk factors, mechanisms, investigations and treatment of acute stroke. The next five years will witness increasing trials of neuroprotective agents and thrombolysis after acute stroke. An increased awareness of the problem and rapid evaluation of patients will be essential for successful completion of these trials. This text does an excellent job of reviewing the accepted rational therapy in cerebrovascular diseases. It also identifies areas where further research is urgently needed to further improve outcomes in patients at risk for stroke.

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**PARKINSON'S DISEASE – SYMPOSIUM REVIEW (1992).** 1993. Edited by Merton Sadler. Published by John Libbey, London, Paris, Rome. 65 pages.

The book consists of four chapters written by J. Jankovic, E. Tolosa, W. Olanow, and M. Sandler based on papers presented at a Symposium in Maastricht, Germany in 1992.

The first chapter on strategies for treatment reviews the major theories on production of substantia nigra damage. The table on classification of parkinsonism is very good as is the table dealing with medical and surgical management. The authors outline the drugs currently available as well as those under investigation. There are many valuable pearls on management of Parkinson's disease by an experienced clinician. The tables on fluctuations and dyskinesias are comprehensive and the options for management of those are valuable for clinicians.

The author refers to "figure" in the text but none is provided.

The second chapter deals with "standard" medical treatment of Parkinson's disease broadly without citing references.

The third chapter is on critical appraisal of Pergolide. It is very well written. The references need to be updated as some papers published 10 years earlier are still listed as "in press".

Chapter 4 on neuroprotection is, by and large, generalization of commonly available literature. The authors cite available evidence that Pergolide increase life expectancy and suggests that it may have neuroprotective effect.

As is the case with multiple authored books, there are some good chapters and every chapter contains some pearls. It is a good review, albeit tilted in favour of Pergolide. The references provided are in alphabetical order in some which I find difficult to read and sequentially as cited in other chapters.

It is a useful, short monograph for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

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**MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR APPROACHES TO THE TREATMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE.** 1992. Edited by Stephen G. Waxman. Published by Raven Press, New York. 415 pages. \$CDN 189.00 approx.

This book consists of 18 chapters by authorities in the field of neuronal injury and therapy, both pharmacotherapy and neural replacement therapy for CNS disease. After an erudite introduction by the editor, four sections follow concerning, respectively, mechanisms of neuronal injury and death, neuronal injury in specific

disease states, therapeutic strategies, and cellular and molecular replacement. Molecular and cellular mechanisms are clarified by the authors of all chapters, in a manner that makes this book a must for the academic neurologist and the research neuroscientist with a clinical orientation. Although this book is a secondary publication, derived from a conference, new information is synthesized in a manner not possible in primary, peer-reviewed publications. The reader will thus be bought up to speed on calcium and glutamate-induced (excitotoxic) neuronal death, hypoxic and ischemic neuronal injury, free radical injury, grey and white matter ischemia, all in a manner bridging basic and clinical science. There are chapters on the role of excitotoxins in heredo-degenerative neurologic diseases, and steroid treatment of spinal cord injury. Therapeutic strategies covered include excitatory amino acid antagonism, hypothermia, calcium antagonism and modification of free radical production. Antisense nucleic acid technology and trans-gene expression in fibroblasts are also covered. Lastly, neural transplantation in the therapy of Parkinson's disease covers a field which will likely have clinical impact in the future treatment of at least one degenerative neurologic disease.

The editor states the approach in the book shall go from molecules to cells to patients, having an impact on diseases. This is a tall order indeed, transcending several levels of biological organization. As such, the usual array of complicated flow charts are present, some of which presume physiologic subcellular regulatory events to be automatically a part of pathophysiology. This is, however, in the nature of the discipline at the present state-of-the-art. No doubt as the field develops, specific mechanisms will dominate over others, and such charts will be simplified, concomitant with specific emerging therapies in neuroprotection. For those academic clinicians and basic scientists interested in neurologic disease, this book is indispensable.

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**THE HEADACHES.** 1993. Edited by Jes Oleson, Peer Tfelt-Hansen and K.M.A. Welch. Published by Raven Press, New York. 922 pages. \$CDN 223.00 approx.

By any standards this is a monumental book and has the most encyclopedic approach to headache since the volumes on Headache in the Handbook of Neurology. It features a scientific approach to headache established by Harold Wolff and currently best exemplified by Jes Oleson who, along with Tfelt-Hansen and Welch, has carefully edited this volume by 121 authors from three continents. It is large (22cm x 29cm) so that it doesn't fit easily into a bookshelf beside other books in the well known Raven Press series, but rather like a coffee table book begs to be left open on the desk. The print is large and good use is made of diagrams and illustrations.

As with most multiauthored books it lacks the coherence of a single author text such as Blau's large but succinct volume, Wolff's Headache authored by Dalessio, or Lance's small but nonetheless complete book, which is, in my opinion still the most readable and useful book on the subject of headache. Even under the tight reign of Jes Oleson the huge number of authors results in a great heterogeneity of presentations. The choices of combinations of authors of each chapter seemed to have more political than scientific rational. I found that this lead to frustrating repetition and I had some difficulty finding specific information. For example the information on the influence of hormones on headache was scattered throughout many chapters.

Although very well organized, it perhaps follows too slavishly the Classification of the International Headache Society, developed