

Book Reviews

PAIN IN CHILDREN. NATURE, ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT. 1990. By Patricia A. McGrath. Published by the Guilford Press. 466 pages. \$53 Cdn. approx.

"What is pain?" is a difficult question to address. An even more problematic question is: "What is pain to a child?" This new volume by Patricia McGrath outlines a balanced and authoritative approach to pain in infants and children. The book is written in an informal narrative and is easy to read. Beginning with descriptions of nociception through the eyes of children of different ages, the author goes on to describe validated pain assessment tools for infants and children, and to explore the difficulties encountered in attempting to quantitate subjective sensation.

A chapter on nociceptive neurophysiology includes several interesting historical vignettes ranging from The Book of Job to Descartes and Darwin.

There are several chapters summarizing treatment of pain in children. The author indicates that children are undertreated for pain compared to adults and sets about to rectify the situation. Pharmacological treatments of pain, including sound guidelines for analgesic administration, are reviewed. A chapter on non-pharmacologic methods of pain management describes behavioral and cognitive techniques, and other interventions. The author clearly draws from a wealth of personal experience, and is a strong advocate of a multi-disciplinary approach to pain management. Three chapters describing specific pain syndromes in children are replete with interesting anecdotal stories and clinical pearls.

A fifty page appendix includes several pain assessment tools used by the author, appropriate for children of various ages. A reference list at the end of the book provides an extensive compilation of published literature in this field.

The book is not a concise and comprehensive reference text; rather it is a readable review of a complex field of medicine. I highly recommend the book for both physicians and non physician caregivers of children, especially health care providers involved in pediatric oncology and surgery.

*Neil A. Hagen
Calgary, Alberta*

ATLAS OF ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY. By A. Guberman and M. Couture. Published by Little, Brown and Company, 220 pages. \$171 Cdn. approx.

By aiming apparently at student electroencephalographers and EEG technologists, this atlas provides common examples of normal and abnormal EEG patterns which one would encounter in a primarily adult practise.

The atlas constitutes a supplement to other standard texts and articles in each area of EEG. All but a very few of the well chosen illustrations are clearly printed and annotated. The authors indicate principal features and reasons for referral of the patient to the laboratory. Specific abnormalities in many of the illustrations are indicated. The unnecessary head diagram appears

inevitably in several of the illustrations, a feature which the authors could not have avoided.

Comments under each figure about several aspects of each illustration would have enhanced their teaching value. Certain phenomena, taken for granted by experienced electroencephalographers, may puzzle the beginning student.

A valuable feature is the sequential nature of many of the illustrations, particularly those which illustrate the sequential changes during recorded seizures.

This atlas has set limited goals for teaching fundamental EEG as indicated above. It achieves such goals very well. Its applicability would have been broadened by further text supplementation and perhaps this would appear in future editions.

*Warren T. Blume
London, Ontario*

GREAT MEN WITH SICK BRAINS & OTHER ESSAYS. 1990. By Bengt Ljunggren, MD, PhD. Published by American Association of Neurological Surgeons. 130 pages. \$40 Cdn. approx.

Many neurosurgeons have followed with delight the series of historical vignettes from the pen of Bengt Ljunggren. Thankfully these have now been assembled and published in a single volume by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. The author brought to the task an impish sense of humor, a profound neurosurgical knowledge and an unapologetic Scandinavian perspective. Even the avid reader of modern history and surgery is bound to be informed by the new and intriguing anecdotes regarding the lives of famous men such as General Leonard Wood, Alfred Nobel, Joseph Stalin, Sven Hedin, George Gershwin and Sir Dudley Pound. They will also learn more of such great scientists and surgeons as Vilhelm Magnus, Axel Key, Vladimir Bekhterev and Harvey Cushing. I discovered with interest that the first Professor of Neurosurgery was probably Ludvig Puusepp, appointed in 1910, in Russia! This is a charming monograph. I am sure there are many who hope that Ljunggren will exploit his obvious talent in this area and continue to enchant and enlighten us with further historical essays.

*Bryce Weir
Edmonton, Alberta*

NEUROLOGY OF PREGNANCY. 1989. By James O. Donaldson. Published by W.B. Saunders Company. 347 pages. \$116.50 Cdn. approx.

This monograph is almost unique in the neurological literature. The second edition of a work which initially appeared in 1978, Donaldson's book is virtually the only full text on neuro-obstetrics available. The new edition represents an extensive revision and expansion of many of the topics covered in the earlier book.

The book text consists of a series of brief well organized chapters, beginning with the neuro-anatomy of female reproductive