liberally illustrated and concisely described chapter reflecting the author's expertise. Both would be valuable to surgeons in all phases of their career.

The second section describes the Surgery of Cerebral Neoplasms, beginning with brain tumors in the first year of life, and then describing Supratentorial Hemispheric Tumors, Midline Intra-axial Tumors, Posterior Fossa Neoplasms, Skull-Base Neoplasms, with chapters discussing the surgical techniques for Intraspinal Neoplasms. The chapter addressing Brain Tumors that occur during the first two years of life is reasonably general and not particularly helpful, although the editors' comments are particularly useful and pertinent. The authors do, however, provide a clear description of the role of surgical resection in tumors in this age group. The chapter describing Supratentorial Hemispheric Tumors is interesting in that specific surgical approaches are described for a variety of locations. In particular, recommendations for the surgical access to subcortical tumors is precisely described. Midline Intra-axial Neoplasms cover craniopharyngioma and pineal region tumors. With two exceptions, the illustrations are excellent and clear. Unfortunately, this chapter does not address optic pathway/hypothalamic glioma which would have been a suitable addition to this chapter. The surgical techniques for Posterior Fossa Neoplasms are described precisely and illustrated nicely. This chapter complements that of the *Principles and Practice*. An excellent chapter on Skull-Base Neoplasms is provided. It is beautifully illustrated and provides a number of specific techniques of which surgeons working in this area should avail themselves. The chapters addressing Intraspinal Extra-medullary and Intramedullary Neoplasms are comprehensive and well-illustrated. They both complement the chapters available in *Principles and Practice*.

The third section addresses issues related to trauma, specifically Repair of Skull Fractures, both acute and growing, which are nicely described. The chapter describing Birth-Related Brachial Plexus Injury and its surgical treatment pales in comparison to the chapter in *Principles and Practice.* This chapter alone would only wet the appetite of an interested reader in this topic. The next section addresses Vascular Diseases and includes discussions of the management of Vascular Malformations and Moyamoya Disease. Both chapters are specific, well-illustrated, and contain clearly described operative techniques that young and old would find useful.

The final section describes Functional Disorders, specifically the procedures for Temporal-Lobe Epilepsy, Corpus Callosotomy, Hemispherectomy and Pump Implantation. The chapter on Temporal-Lobe Epilepsy is clear; however, a consistent orientation of line diagrams and operative drawings would be helpful. This would allow the reader to orient themselves more clearly to the descriptions provided in the text. The chapter on Callosotomy describes this procedure well and is nicely illustrated. The chapter on Hemispherectomy describes a number techniques, in particular, ultrasound guided modified hemispherectomy. The chapter does not describe the surgical technique for peri-insular hemispherectomy. The final chapter describes techniques associated with some Pump Insertions. Specifically to address the issue of spasticity and for the administration of intrathecal baclofen. It is clear and well-illustrated.

In general, the authors who contributed to *Principles and Practice* have contributed to *Operative Techniques.* In all cases, the chapters in the two volumes are complementary or the chapter in *Principles and Practice* covers the information in *Operative Techniques*. As *Operative Techniques*, in itself, does not provide sufficiently detailed information for defining operative indications or the results of such interventions, it should not be used in isolation from *Principles and Practice* or other references.

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SURGERY OFTHE LUMBAR SPINE. 1999. Edited by Sanford J. Larson, Dennis J. Maiman. Published by Thieme. 338 pages. C$205.72 approx.

There has been a proliferation of textbooks on spinal surgery predominantly related to the development of new instrumentation techniques and new concepts of spine biomechanics. Sanford, Larson and Dennis Maiman have drawn on their extensive experience as neurosurgeons dealing with adult surgery of the lumbar spine in their book *Surgery of the Lumbar Spine.*

This volume is divided into 13 chapters covering three major themes. The first is outlined by chapters on lumbar anatomy, biomechanics and clinical instability. Lumbar anatomy is briefly reviewed and little emphasis is placed on embryology and therefore the book has no substantial coverage of the many developmental abnormalities that occur in the lumbar spine. Radiographs and line drawings are used to provide a good review of the structures discussed. The chapter on biomechanics of the spine uses graphs and line drawings to help explain the various column theories of instability. These concepts are highlighted in the chapter on clinical instability.

The second group of chapters outline the disease entities which involve the lumbar spine. Metabolic disease of bone, disc degeneration, isthmic spondylolisthesis, infection, trauma, benign, malignant and metastatic tumours are discussed in separate chapters. A coherent and systemized approach is taken and the clinical presentations, diagnostic evaluation and management of individual condition is summarized. The absence of multicentre trials to guide management in almost all of the disease processes involving the lumbar spine is a significant problem. This is reflected in the diverse approaches employed by orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons dealing with the lumbar spine and the controversies which this generates related to management. The authors present a number of views but are guided predominantly by their own extensive experience. Those chapters are complemented by significant numbers of illustrative line drawings, radiographs including some 3-D CT reconstructions and pathology. Some of the radiographs are rather small and none have labels or arrows, making interpretation a challenge at times. Pathology is illustrated by black and white photographs and no substantial discussion of neuronavigation techniques is attempted.

The last two chapters deal with the theme of operative techniques employed by the authors dealing with bone grafting and instrumentation. Line drawings of patient position, incision location and surgical techniques of a variety of lumbar approaches are all well-presented.

The authors have provided a monograph dealing with the surgery of the lumbar spine which reflects their extensive experience with disorders involving the adult lumbar spine. The book is not comprehensive since it does not deal with the many developmental abnormalities which can present in the lumbar spine during adulthood, such as congenital abnormalities of the vertebral body and sacrum, diastematomyelia and spinal dysraphic states.

The strength of this book lies in presenting the extensive experience of two neurosurgeons stepped in the surgery of the lumbar spine. However, with the development of ever more expensive and extensive instrumentation and the utilization of sophisticated spinal neuronavigational techniques, one wonders whether this is not time for some reflection. Which of the many operative and instrumentation techniques available for spinal disorders provide the best long-term outcome for patients? Future textbooks on lumbar spine surgery would clearly be benefited by information provided by well-done, multicentred controlled trials.

This book would be most useful to neurosurgeons and neurosurgery residents interested in the management of complex disorders of the adult lumbar spine.

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The Neurological Assessment of the Preterm and Full Term Newborn Infant (Clinics in Developmental Medicine No. 148). 2nd Edition. 1999. By Lilly M.S. Dubowitz, Victor Dubowitz, Eugenio Mercuri. Published by MacKeith Press; Distributed by Cambridge University Press. 155 pages. C$83.93 approx.

This is the second edition of a practical clinical guide to the neurological examination of the newborn, the first edition of which has long been regarded as a classic text by pediatric neurologists, neonatologists and pediatricians. The text is organized such that the first two chapters review the historical background and provide a rationale for components of the clinical neurological examination of the newborn. The next two chapters outline in detail the neurological assessment of normal preterm and term newborns in detail, alerting the reader to potential pitfalls in the examination related to maturational changes in the developing nervous system. Subsequently, the authors combine several aspects of the examination into an "optimality score" which permits some quantification of the neurological evaluation of the term newborn. This scoring system should be of great interest to clinical researchers for incorporation into study designs when serial examinations or comparison between groups of infants are required. Another chapter is devoted to modifications of the detailed neurological examination to create a brief, simplified version which is suitable for use by less experienced staff and for mass screening programs. The authors illustrate how this scheme has been applied to study infants in Bangkok and elsewhere in Thailand. A set of loose scoring sheets of the detailed Hammersmith Newborn Neurological Examination and the modified shortened version are provided for ease of reproduction and to encourage clinical use by the reader. Finally, there is a large new section in the second edition which correlates the clinical patterns of neurological findings with neuroimaging data in preterm and term newborns with specific brain lesions.

In general, the second edition of this text exceeds the high expectations set by the earlier version in terms of its practical clinical approach and the clear readable style. The numerous illustrations provide an unequalled step-by-step visual guide to performing the newborn neurological examination and reflect a lifetime of experience and dedication by the authors. In the current climate of increasing reliance on complex technologies for study of the central nervous system, it is refreshing to be reminded about the major importance of the clinical neurological examination in the newborn.

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Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Annual. 2000. Edited by Serge Gauthier, and Jeffery L. Cummings. Published by Martin Dunitz Ltd. 255 pages. C$102.00 approx.

The field of dementia continues to grow at a substantially rapid rate. This growth in knowledge permeates all aspects of this field, from basic science to patient care. With such a rapid rate of growth it is imperative to put new information in perspective. The "Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Annual" serves an important purpose, in summarizing the most current information on various types of dementias and provides some perspective in basic research, as well as clinical care. There are 11 chapters, each written by individuals with expertise in the field. These chapters are comprehensive for the range of new advances, and include information on: genetics of Alzheimer's disease, chromosome 17 and frontotemporal dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, parkinsonism with dementia, subcortical vascular dementia, minimal cognitive impairment, functional aspects of dementia, neuropsychiatric manifestations of dementia, cholinesterase inhibitors in the treatment of dementia, hormonal therapies for Alzheimer's disease, and anti-inflammatory therapy for Alzheimer's disease. One of the major strengths of this book is that it is edited by two individuals with keen understanding of dementias. Individual chapters are concise, thorough, and have a comprehensive set of references. Not surprisingly, given that all aspects of dementia are in the developmental stages, some of the new data are controversial in their application. The search for genetic aspects of dementia will continue and, potentially, will lead to treatment of these diseases. Clinical criteria for diagnosis of various dementias and their treatments will undoubtedly continue to be refined, but for now, this book serves as an excellent summary of many aspects of dementias to date. Some of the chapters, however, have perspectives that do not coincide with others. It would have been helpful for the editors to put some of this information in context for readers without a deep sense of present controversies. Nonetheless, the present effort is a starting point for future yearbooks on discussions and reviews on many aspects of these complex and intellectually challenging diseases.

This book should be of interest to basic scientists, clinicians, nurses, and other health care providers, particularly those involved in dementias.

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Pathology of Skeletal Muscle. Second Edition. 2001. By Stirling Carpenter, George Karpati. Published by Oxford University Press. 662 pages. C$458.64 approx.

This is the second edition of this text and the authors have again produced a valuable and attractive reference and guide for all of those interested in the diagnostic pathology of skeletal muscle. The book is divided into two major sections: the first describes the