

Books Received

DUUS' TOPICAL DIAGNOSIS IN NEUROLOGY. 4TH EDITION. 2006. By Mathias Baehr, Michael Frotscher. Published by Thieme. 517 pages. C\$60 approx.

HANDBOOK OF NEUROSURGERY. SIXTH EDITION. 2006. By Mark S. Greenberg. Published by Thieme. 1016 pages. C\$96 approx.

NEUROSURGERY PRACTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. 2006. By Mark Shaya, Remi Nader, Anil Nanda. Published by Thieme. 240 pages. C\$48 approx.

PEDIATRIC NEUROVASCULAR DISEASE: SURGICAL ENDOVASCULAR AND MEDICAL MANAGEMENT. 2006. By Michael J. Alexander, Robert F. Spetzler. Published by Thieme. 224 pages. C\$180 approx.

CHALLENGING CASES IN SPINE SURGERY. 2006. By Muwaffak Abdulhak, Shaden Marzouk. Published by Thieme. 196 pages. C\$120 approx.

ADVANCED PEDIATRIC CRANIOCERVICAL SURGERY. 2006. By Douglas L. Brockmeyer. Published by Thieme. 152 pages. C\$156 approx.

HUMAN SEXUALITY. SECOND EDITION 2006. By Simon Levay, Sharon M. Valente. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 717 pages. C\$115 approx.

INSTANT NOTES IN NEUROSCIENCE. SECOND EDITION 2005. By Alan Longstaff. Published by Taylor & Francis. 468 pages. C\$41 approx.

ADVANCES IN NEUROLOGY. VOLUME 97 - INTRACTABLE EPILEPSIES. 2006. Edited by Warren T. Blume, Peter L. Carlen, Elout Starreveld, Samuel Wiebe, G. Bryan Young. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 595 pages. C\$240 approx.

NICOTINIC ACETYLCHOLINE RECEPTORS FROM MOLECULAR BIOLOGY TO COGNITION. 2005. By Jean-Pierre Changeux, Stuart J. Edelstein. Published by The John Hopkins University Press. 284 pages. C\$120 approx.

THE CIRCUITRY OF THE HUMAN SPINAL CORD: ITS ROLE IN MOTOR CONTROL AND MOVEMENT DISORDERS. 2005. By Emmanuel Pierrot-Deseilligny, David Burke. Published by Cambridge University Press. 642 pages. C\$230 approx.

SENSATION & PERCEPTION. 2006. By Jeremy M. Wolfe, Keith R. Kluender, Dennis M. Levi, Linda M. Bartoshuk, Rachel S. Herz, Roberta L. Klatzky, Susan J. Lederman. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 410 pages. C\$120 approx.

COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS OF EPILEPTIC ORIGIN IN CHILDREN. 2005. By Thierry Deonna, Eliane Roulet-Perez. Published by Cambridge University Press. 241 pages. C\$108 approx.

Book Reviews

THE A-Z OF NEUROLOGICAL PRACTICE: A GUIDE TO CLINICAL NEUROLOGY. 2005. By Roger A. Barker, Neil Colding, Dominic Rowe and Andrew J. Larner. Published by Cambridge University Press. 935 pages. Price C\$95.

This encyclopedic-style, paperback book measures 12.5 (h)x18.4(w)x3(d) cm, dimensions that would fit into most long white coat pockets. It is written by clinical neurologists in the UK and Australia and is intended for residents in training, but all neurologists could benefit from it.

As implied, topics are alphabetically organized (literally from abducens nerve palsy to zygomycosis) and are discussed in a standardized manner (when appropriate for the full treatment): pathophysiology, clinical features, investigation, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment, prognosis and references (usually 1-3). Cross references and related entities are listed whenever relevant.

Despite my intrinsic bias, I am impressed with the book. It is remarkably comprehensive in its terse treatment of the numerous, highly varied entities. I could not think of an entity that was not

covered. The organized structure is helpful, making the book useful for quick reviews. The entities that I know well are very adequately treated and good clinical judgment comes through in the information imparted. The book is a practical one for clinicians, but contains sufficient information on biochemical defects, gene abnormalities, pathology and mechanisms to give a reasonably complete picture. The discussions are balanced and the references are up-to-date, the most recent from 2003, likely reflecting delay to publication. None of the authors is a pediatric neurologist, but a strong effort is made to include various pediatric neurology entities in the same comprehensive manner.

As might be expected, there are disadvantages to this format. Topics cannot be handled in a detailed manner. There is no room for discussion, debate or detailed presentation of evidence, nor is the quality of evidence classed or graded. Hence, the information should not be taken as the final word on any topic. There are no illustrative figures or algorithms. The book cannot and should not replace neurology textbooks, monographs, detailed reviews (especially evidence-based ones) or original articles. There may be a risk that

the complacent will rely too much on such condensed, uncritically presented knowledge.

Nonetheless, it is a little book that I would like in my pocket or office desk for quick accessibility of reasonably current, potted knowledge. It would be nice if it could be supplemented by (not replaced by) a CD-ROM, or better yet, a regularly updated website that could be downloaded onto a personal digital assistant, to fit even better into the neurologist's pocket.

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HANDBOOK OF ESSENTIAL TREMOR AND OTHER TREMOR DISORDERS. FIRST EDITION. 2005. Edited by Kelly E. Lyons, Rajesh Pahwa. Published by Taylor & Francis Group. 389 pages. Price C\$246.

The first half of this book by Lyons and Pahwa is dedicated to essential tremor, the most common cause of pathological tremor. It begins with a review of the history of essential tremor followed by a chapter on epidemiology and etiology. The chapter on pathophysiology of essential tremor is interesting and reasonably detailed. It is of use to residents learning about tremor physiology and for those interested in movement disorders, but not particularly to the practicing physician. Other topics presented in Part I include animal models, neuropathology and neurochemistry, neuroimaging, surgical treatment, quality of life, and the role of physical and occupational therapies.

The chapters especially germane to the practicing neurologist include differential diagnoses and clinical characteristics, clinical assessment of essential tremor, and medical treatment. These are well written. In particular, the chapter on differential diagnosis and clinical characteristics of essential tremor is excellent.

Part II covers other tremor disorders including parkinsonism, dystonia and cerebellar tremor. Less common tremor disorders such as orthostatic and task specific tremors are included as well as a nice review of post-traumatic tremor. The chapter on infectious tremor is thorough to a fault. As almost any infectious disease may cause or exacerbate an underlying tremor condition, the chapter is too long and not very useful for the practicing neurologist.

The chapter on physiological tremor is well done and nicely supplements the pathophysiology of essential tremor chapter in Part I. The book concludes with a chapter on psychogenic tremor. After reading the chapter, one is left with the possibly false impression that psychogenic tremor is a frequently undiagnosed cause of tremor. I suspect this is related to referral bias, as three large tertiary care centres (two US, one Canadian) were selected for the studies reported.

This book is edited by two leading experts in tremor. They have done a commendable job and the overall quality of writing is high. Some chapters are easier to read and flow better than others and there is variable depth in terms of the references.

This book is aimed at those with an interest in movement disorders. I recommend the chapter on drug and toxin induced tremor for all neurologists. For neurologists in general practice, I

think their money could be better spent on a book encompassing all the movement disorders and not one devoted solely to tremor.

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ADVANCES AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS IN NEUROSURGERY. VOLUME 30. 2005. Edited by JD Pickard, N. Akalan, C. DiRocco, et al. Published by Springer. 289 pages. Price C\$190.

This multiauthored volume is the 30th in the Advances and Technical Standards in Neurosurgery Series. The series was first published in 1974, and is sponsored by the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies. The intention of its editors is to present fields of neurosurgery in which important recent advances have been made.

The first section of this volume, "Advances", includes four chapters: "Depolarization Phenomena in Traumatic and Ischemic Brain Injury", "What is Magnetoencephalography and why is it Relevant to Neurosurgery?", "Basic and Clinical Aspects of Olfaction", and "Cranial Venous Outflow Obstruction and Pseudotumor Cerebri Syndrome". The second section, "Technical Standards", includes two chapters: "Sacral Neuromodulation in Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction", and "Prevention and Treatment of Postoperative Pain with Particular Reference to Children".

The first chapter serves as a comprehensive review of depolarization phenomena in traumatic and ischemic brain injury. It describes the history and physiology of "cortical spreading depression" [of Leão]. There is also a review of the suspected role of depolarizations in the pathophysiology of the following disorders that affect humans: migraine, transient global amnesia, concussion and traumatic brain injury, ischemic stroke, intracerebral hemorrhage, and subarachnoid hemorrhage. The authors conclude with their reflections on the possible biological significance of cortical spreading depression.

The following chapter describes the technique of magnetoencephalography (MEG). There is a review of the physics that form the basis for MEG, and a description of the clinical applications of this technique in neurosurgical practice. This chapter is brief but provides the reader with a comprehensive review of the subject.

The third chapter covers the basic and clinical aspects of olfaction. The anatomy of the olfactory system is reviewed. The authors use only one figure to assist the reader in understanding the anatomy, and I believe it would have been helpful to have additional diagrams. Measurement of olfactory function is also discussed. They mention the use of electro-olfactograms, however the description is rather superficial and did not allow me to understand how this test is carried out. A review of the disorders of smell including a section of treatment is provided.

A very detailed and comprehensive discussion of cranial venous outflow obstruction and pseudotumor cerebri syndrome is presented in the following chapter, with appropriate use of tables and figures. The authors also describe the investigation and treatment of venous sinus obstruction in patients with pseudotumor cerebri, and provide