

EEG with polygraphic monitoring, particularly multi-channel EMG activity of extra-cerebral channels, that demonstrates the physiology of drop attacks, both epileptic and non-epileptic.

Although very focused in its direction, I feel that this work is worthy of a general audience, and would appeal to both neurologists, pediatricians, internists, and family physicians with an interest in this area. Its strongest appeal is to clinical neurophysiologists who are involved in the video EEG monitoring of children with paroxysmal disorders, such as epilepsy, drop attacks, and similar problems.

The references are reasonably up to date, although by no means exhaustive or comprehensive. There is a preponderance of literature from the European sources, but includes a good international review from other centres that have been devoted to the study of such paroxysmal and epileptic disorders as well.

For its modest price, it should have a place in the library of neurologists and clinical neurophysiologists, as well as hospitals and neurophysiology laboratories.

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NEUROPATHOLOGY OF DEMENTING DISORDERS. 1998. Edited by William R. Markesbery. Published by Oxford University Press Canada. 404 pages. \$C278.95.

This volume is an excellent attempt to provide an up-to-date review on the subject of dementing disorders, a subject which has witnessed tremendous advances in the last few decades. Many aspects of our present-day knowledge on the classification and diagnosis of dementias are based on neuropathological findings aided by the modern techniques in neuroimaging, immunohistochemistry, neurochemistry, molecular biology and genetics. This book not only covers the common dementias associated with neurodegenerative disorders but also the dementias related to vascular, infectious, metabolic and nutritional diseases. It is written by 33 leading experts in the fields of neuropathology, neurology, basic and clinical neuroscience. There are 18 chapters in the book with the first three serving as a kind of introduction to the classification, the neuroimaging and pathological changes of dementia and normal aging. The remainder of the book is structured with individual chapters devoted to a specific group of dementing illnesses which include Alzheimer's disease, Pick's disease, non-Alzheimer frontal lobe dementia, chromosome 17-linked dementias, dementia with Lewy bodies, progressive supranuclear palsy, Huntington's disease, cortico-basal degeneration, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis-parkinsonism-dementia complex of Guam, vascular dementia, virus-mediated dementias, prion diseases and dementias related to nutritional and metabolic disorders.

Even though this is a multi-authored book the layout for each chapter is quite consistent. In addition to the pathological changes seen in dementias, sufficient information is provided by the authors on the clinical, genetic, epidemiological, neuroimaging, neurochemical and molecular biological aspects of most dementias. Although there are some duplications in different chapters, they are relatively minor. The illustrations and photographs are clear and adequate. More photographs, especially those in colour would enhance the quality of this book but would certainly add to the cost. There are few typographical

errors that are quite distracting, especially those involving the alleles of APOE. Even though it is the aim of the book to provide the most up-to-date information on dementias, many important new discoveries have taken place just as it is being published. For example, the significance of α -synuclein in neurodegenerative diseases is emerging. This, however, is inevitable because of the rapid advances made in these areas. The omission of any mention on the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in the chapter on prion disease could also be due to the same reason.

The book is well-written, comprehensive and informative with an extensive list of useful references following every chapter. I would strongly recommend this volume to neurologists, neurosurgeons, psychiatrists, neuropsychologists, gerontologists, and neuroradiologists because the understanding of the pathological basis of dementias will definitely enhance their practice in these areas. For anatomical and general pathologists, this is a handy reference especially when dementing disorders are common post-mortem diagnoses. This compact volume may also serve as a useful revision text and update for practicing neuropathologists.

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RIGHT HEMISPHERE LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION. 1998. Edited by: Mark Beeman and Christine Chiarello. Published by: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc. 408 pages. \$C51.94

This edited book on right hemisphere language concentrates on comprehension from phonology to pragmatics. It is a multi-disciplinary effort with most of the contributions being linguists and psychologists but also a few neurologists and neuroscientists researching anatomy. Right hemisphere language capacity has been much debated. This is not a trivial topic from the point of view of neurobiology and psycholinguistics or even clinical neurology, although clinical issues are not prominent in this book. For instance, there is a chapter on right hemisphere contributions to creative problem-solving but not on recovery from aphasia. There is no chapter on PET scanning or fMRI that have thrown some light on right hemisphere language function, but there is a chapter in the book on event related potentials and some computer modeling of the semantic space that challenges the comprehension of nontechnical readers. Particularly interesting are the chapters that make an attempt at integrating hemispheric processing of language. There is no doubt that language deficits are subtle with right hemisphere damage but the evidence for right hemisphere participation in language processing is indeed extensive and some of this is highlighted and updated in this book.

Language comprehension is a complex phenomenon requiring phonological processing, the recognition of lexical units and their integration into meaning, the use of syntax (which the right hemisphere, by the way, seems incapable of doing). The processing of paralinguistic or pragmatic aspects by, language such as humor, context and other highly integrated functions, on the other hand, may be even specialized in the right hemisphere. Most of the chapters have a healthy mixture of theory and experimental data but the book is more than just a collection of articles. The editors should be commended for the selection of