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.

Paul A. Hwang,
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NEUROPATHOLOGY OF DEMENTING DISORDERS. 1998. Edited by William R. Markesberry. 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, corticobasal 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, gerentologists, 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.

Lee Cyn Ang,
Toronto, Ontario

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 multidisciplinary 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

high level work, and for their effort to integrate it with an excellent introduction, comments on each section and summary. This is an enjoyable and current text in an important area, which can be read by the novice and expert alike. It provides useful references in addition to serving as an important educational resource.

A. Kertesz,
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THE NEUROPATHOLOGY OF DEMENTIA. 1997. Edited by Margaret M. Esiri and James H. Morris. Published by Cambridge University Press. 440 pages. $C120.

In the past decade, general neuropathology texts, whether new or more recent editions of established ones, reflect the expanding information contained in them. This has resulted in an increase in size to ensure slimness, an increase in thickness that surely challenges bookbinders, or the inevitable move to multiple volumes. Rapidly expanding knowledge in the field of the chronic neurodegenerative diseases, and in particular dementia, seldom allows such texts to cover the subject as one might wish: the careful integration of clinical aberration with functional anatomy, appropriate neuropathologic illustrations, considered sublimation of the current diagnostic criteria and aetiology, and a practical approach that allows the anatomical pathologist or neuropathologist to arrive at a specific diagnosis.

The Neuropathology of Dementia edited by Margaret Esiri and James Morris addresses the dementias in just this way. This work consists of 19 chapters and 3 appendices and will appeal to a wide audience. An immediate attraction is the seamless way in which it is constructed and the way the chapters are integrated and cross-referenced. This I attribute to the fact that the two editors, who are experienced in this field, are author or co-author of 11 of the 19 chapters and 2 of the 3 appendices. The book begins with the definition and anatomical basis of dementia, then introduces a practical approach to its study, followed by an in depth treatise on specific disorders. In fact, what makes this book particularly attractive is this practical approach that is a persistent thread throughout, whether it is the clinical pathological correlation, recognition of the classical gross and microscopic pathology or the application of judicious immunohistochemistry. As might be expected, much of the book deals with the more common primary diseases that cause dementia, though the less common ones and secondary causes of dementia are well documented.

In any pathology text, illustrations are extremely important. Here, the illustrations are numerous, both black and white and colour, and in general provide good definition. Frequent use of control gross and microscopic illustrations is appropriate and supports the practical approach. Of particular interest to the pathologist are appendices that offer information on prion protein testing, morphometric analysis, brain banks and required laboratory safety standards in the study of the dementias. Seminal references are provided up to 1996, and the index is well organized. As with any new text, a few minor editorial errors are evident, but do not detract from the quality of this text.

I have every expectation that this book will become one of the classic specialized texts in neuropathology, and the authors and their contributors are to be congratulated. I recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the dementias, and in particular, the undergraduate and postgraduate trainee, the physician and basic neuroscientist, the anatomical pathologist and the neuropathologist. For those knowledgeable in this field, this book will be a useful addition to their library, as it is broad in scope, detailed and well balanced.

Barry Rewcastle
Calgary, Alberta

INTRA-OPERATIVE DIAGNOSIS OF CNS TUMOURS. 1997. By T.H. Moss, J.A.R. Nicoll, J.W. Ironside. Published by Oxford University Press Canada. 193 pages. $C285.

With increasing popularity of smear cytology for intraoperative diagnosis of CNS tumors, this extensively illustrated text is most timely as a companion guide to the practicing neuropathologist and surgical pathologist. The book has 193 pages and covers the complete spectrum of tumors and reactive processes that present diagnostic challenges in neuropathology. Most of all, with its easy-to-read style and ample illustrations, this text is highly recommended not only for pathologists, but also for neurosurgeons and neuroradiologists.

This text will serve as an invaluable practical bench reference for pathologists at all levels of experience. Particularly helpful are practical tips on specimen handling, smear preparation, and most importantly, a well illustrated discussion of what normal and reactive tissues look like when smeared. The illustrations are uniformly of outstanding quality and a comparison with frozen section appearances is provided in almost each instance.

This text is not merely an assortment of pictures, rather, it presents a succinct review of the clinical and radiographic features of each lesion along with its histopathological appearances. The advantages of smears are highlighted as are the disadvantages and limitations, and situations where smear technique may be inadequate for diagnosis are clearly outlined. Throughout the text, the importance of knowledge of clinical circumstances and radiological features for accurate diagnosis is emphasized. Common artifacts are well illustrated.

In summary, this reviewer finds this text to be well written and illustrated and a helpful guide to neuropathologists, surgical pathologists, neurosurgeons and neuroradiologists. This reference will be a valuable addition to the library of anyone interested in CNS tumors, pathologists and non-pathologists alike.

Venita Jay,
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NEUROFIBROMATOSIS TYPE I IN CHILDHOOD. 1997. By Katherine North. Published by Mac Keith Press for the International Child Neurology Association. 132 pages. $C62.34.

This book is a review of clinical, laboratory, and genetic features of Neurofibromatosis I (NF-I). The core of the material is a detailed description of findings in a group of 200 NF-I patients whom have been followed at a Neurofibromatosis Clinic in Australia. These data are compared with the results published from other clinics worldwide.

Chapter One reviews the historical perspective of Neuofibromatosis leading up to the modern discoveries of the molecular biology of the NF-I gene. Neurofibromin is the protein encoded

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