

tone and gait, but tests for the “primitive reflexes” are not recommended. Chapters discuss the current cognitive enhancing therapies approved for Alzheimer’s disease (they get a favourable yet guarded review) and the management of disturbed behaviour, typically occurring in more advanced Alzheimer’s disease.

Clinical vignettes with explanatory comment end each chapter and are very helpful in filling in and reinforcing the account. There is a glossary and throughout there is a conscious effort to avoid technical jargon and formal rhetoric.

Although the practicality of care for dementia requires streamlining of assessment methods (for example, full neuropsychologic testing and imaging need not be routine), neurologists should not be deceived into abandoning their time-honoured algorithm of lesion localization. Neurologists should have a wider perspective of lesions causing the various symptoms of dementia and generally find the Mini-Mental Status Exam a limiting and unsatisfactory tool. Continued skepticism about the diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease is warranted. Indeed, community-based correlations of clinical diagnosis with pathology suggest we are getting worse, not better in making the diagnosis of Alzheimer’s. The authors emphasize that we need to be aware that vascular risk factors should be recognized and dealt with early rather than later whether or not there is co-existent Alzheimer pathology. Neurologists will be the “splitters” in this field.

Dementia is indeed an expensive disease. Just to begin, the assessments seem needlessly expensive with multiple visits involving multiple professionals (also unsung are Social Workers and nurses who have become expert in education, counseling and in the myriad social agencies in which patients and families living in a multicultural community must contend). The neurologists role (largely, diagnosis and research) is a limited, but essential role in the management of Alzheimer’s disease, although some will take on much more than others; for example in attending to the “4 Cs” of Rockwood and MacKnight - competence, caregiver, comorbidity and continuing care. The emergence of truly disease modifying therapies, possibly quite complex, could greatly increase this role. For the present, the collaborative approach to dementia care is a highly rewarding one and for this neurologist highly illuminating. The family physicians in the region have shown a remarkable ability to triage dementia patients, but even so, will enjoy and benefit from this manual. Even if they do not take a more active role in dementia management, it will give them important insights. The same is equally true for neurologists.

*John R. Wherrett
Toronto, Ontario*

EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND INTERVENTIONAL THERAPY IN CEREBRAL PALSY. THIRD EDITION. 2001. Edited by Alfred L. Scherzer. Published by Marcel Dekker Inc. 355 pages. C\$80.85 approx.

This is the third edition of this book, which is published as part of the Pediatric Habilitation series. It is a multi-authored book, which is primarily written by and directed to therapists dealing with children with cerebral palsy.

Chapter 1 provides a review of the history of CP and its classification. The second chapter provides a concise overview of the etiology and epidemiology of CP, which is well written, but provides little new information for medical specialists who deal with

CP. Chapter 3 offers a superficial approach to diagnosis. For example, the author states that various newborn CSF components have been effective markers of hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, without providing further detail or discussion. This chapter covers very basic concepts of clinical evaluation, and is clearly directed to therapists rather than medical specialists.

Chapter 4 is an overview of the clinical consequences of CP and developmental delay followed by a brief overview of current treatment options. As a resource for therapists in CP clinics, the book fails to place the role of medications and their adverse effects into perspective.

Chapter 5 is an excellent overview of the history and current status of various therapies, including neurodevelopmental treatment, conductive education and patterning. On this background Chapter 6 provides a model for the multidisciplinary clinical assessment of infants with CP. The role for physicians in this model is unclear, although I presume they would be included under “other professionals”.

This chapter will be valuable for physical and occupational therapists and for speech and language pathologists. Example worksheets are provided and Chapter 7 provides models for documenting assessment data, goal setting and treatment strategy development.

Chapter 8 incorporates family needs and how they can influence treatment choices. Model forms for daily documentation are exhaustively provided. In Chapter 9 a case study is used to apply the model to an individual patient. This chapter is accompanied by an excellent series of photographs and multiple applications of the worksheets.

Chapter 10, entitled “Research in Cerebral Palsy – Yesterday and Today” provides background on evidence-based research with descriptions of the various research models from random clinical trials to “common sense”. Chapter 11 then provides examples of how evaluation of the literature and research might be applied to three issues commonly dealt with in CP treatment. Their search strategy and evaluation of the literature is helpful and demonstrates the paucity of data to support gastrostomy, neurodevelopmental therapy or early intervention for at risk infants. The book ends with a brief overview of future perspectives on CP.

Overall this may be a valuable addition to the library of therapists who treat children with CP and should probably be in the library of every CP clinic. Pediatric neurologists who specialize in CP will find this helpful in understanding the goals of their colleagues in PT, OT and speech and language pathology but I suspect that the average pediatric neurologist or developmental pediatrician will be satisfied by reading selected components within their libraries.

*J.M. Dooley
Halifax, Nova Scotia*

PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY: A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT. 2001. Edited by Didier Cros. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 432 pages. C\$133.50 approx.

The preface indicates that the target audience for this 432 page multi-authored monograph is clinicians, including non-neurologists and neurologists-in-training, who need a practical source for quick reference and continuing education. After some introductory chapters on clinical approach, biopsy, and electrodiagnosis, the book

is divided into four major sections, including four chapters on acquired demyelinating neuropathies, six chapters on neuropathies in the context of systemic disease, four chapters on specific topics in which recent scientific advances have been made, and five in which diagnosis and management are the focus, including a useful chapter on neuropathic pain.

The authors, international experts in their fields, derived from the United States and Europe, and this makes for authoritative writing. The discussion in the clinically directed chapters is usually comprehensive without being overly detailed, and appropriate for the target reader described in the preface. The strongest chapters are those on immune mediated neuropathies, with a good discussion of clinical features and management issues, as well as some basic science. The chapter on multifocal motor neuropathy features a unique and comprehensive literature review.

As a reference work, the chapter on genetic advances in polyneuropathy is not surprisingly already out of date, failing to mention advances such as identification of EGR2 mutations as a cause of CMT1 and Dejerine Sottas Syndrome, as well as identification of several new CMT2 genetic loci, including the P0 mutation and mutation in the neurofilament light chain protein. It is surprising that in a book published in 2001 there would be no significant referenced contributions to this topic beyond 1996. Also, despite full chapters dedicated to detailed discussion of such relatively rare entities as Lyme neuritis and Multifocal Motor Neuropathy, there is no significant discussion of clinical issues in important genetic neuropathies such as CMT1 and 2 and HNPP. Similarly, amyloid neuropathy and leprosy get very brief mention. In the chapter on diabetic neuropathy there is only a very minimal discussion of immune suppressive treatment for patients with diabetic polyradiculoneuropathy (diabetic amyotrophy) despite an increasing tendency to treat these patients with immune modulating therapy. The reader looking for a starting point to review small fiber neuropathy, autonomic neuropathy or idiopathic neuropathy will not find much.

Overall, this volume is a manageable size for the interested reader and authoritatively written. It does not attempt to be a comprehensive reference work. The clinical and scientific chapters on immune mediated neuropathies are particularly strong and probably could serve as a first reference for the clinician needing to review quickly a topic in these aspects of peripheral neuropathy.

*Gyl Midroni
Toronto, Ontario*

ELECTRODIAGNOSIS IN DISEASES OF NERVE AND MUSCLE: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE. 2001. By Jun Kimura. Published By Oxford University Press. 991 pages. C\$200.00 approx.

Those familiar with previous editions of this book will recognize that the format has been essentially preserved and most tables and figures have been used again. Much of the wording is the same as previous editions. I would caution anyone looking at this book and recognizing the considerable similarities to previous editions not to make the error in believing that there is little new here. Obviously, techniques and knowledge that have stood the test of time do not need to be changed. Some sections have been moved to other chapters or have become the content of new chapters. Importantly, there has been a careful editing of the content, removal of older and

less pertinent references, and the inclusion of a remarkable number of new references that have been nicely worked into the classical discussions that made previous editions of this book so easy to read and use.

There have been several topic additions to the content of existing chapters. New sections within chapters include the discussions of expert systems and quality development and preparation of needle electrodes (Chapter 3). The section on nerve injury (Chapter 4) has been significantly revised to incorporate new knowledge of nerve regeneration. Chapter 5, "Principles and Variations of Nerve Conduction Studies" has been updated to include discussions on other physiological variables that might affect nerve conduction including maturation, aging and height and there has been added a useful and needed section on autonomic nervous system studies.

Chapter 6, "Assessment of Individual Nerves", includes discussions on several nerves not previously considered including the pudendal nerve, posterior femoral cutaneous nerve, medial femoral cutaneous nerve, and the dorsal nerve of the penis. The author does discuss direct spinal root stimulation using a deep needle stimulating electrode but he does not discuss direct external spinal root stimulation using a low output impedance simulator that is a very useful and reproducible technique. This may reflect the fact that this simulator is not approved for use in the United States where the largest market for this book likely lies.

Chapter 9, "Anatomy and Physiology of the Neuromuscular Junction", has been reorganized and the discussion has been expanded. An abundant number of new references have been supplied for Chapter 11, "Activation Procedures and Other Methods". Chapter 13, "Techniques to Assess Muscle Function", has been expanded to include some new techniques and there has been an extensive review of new information with accompanying pertinent references.

Chapter 14, "Types of Electromyographic Abnormalities", contains many new references and sections on continuous muscle fiber activity and cramp. The discussions in Chapter 16, "Single-fiber and Macro Electromyography", contains many useful tables and expanded discussion on the techniques. Chapter 17, "The Blink Reflex", contains very well-organized and updated logical discussion of this useful technique.

There are three new chapters. Chapter 8, "Other Techniques to Assess Nerve Function", brings together some topics that were discussed elsewhere in previous editions and adds to them some new topics to produce a very handy chapter. Chapter 21, "Motor Evoked Potentials" is a particularly welcome addition to this standard text even though the techniques are not in general use. Chapter 22, "Electrodiagnosis in the Pediatric Population" is very brief but introduces this important topic to electromyographers who may be required to see occasional pediatric patients as part of their practice.

This text is an excellent reference for any laboratory but it will best serve medical residents, Fellows and technologists who are beginning their training. It is an excellent syllabus for any training program. It is clearly written and it is very easy to read. The diagrams are very clear and the captions appropriate and concise. As always, the price of modern texts, this one included, will require careful consideration before purchase.

*John D. Brown
London, Ontario*