

represent an excellent introduction to the subject. They are unusually clear and concise. The remaining 23 chapters are organized partly along lines of what part of the nervous system is involved and partly along lines of particular symptom complexes – e.g. serotonin syndrome, Guillain-Barré syndrome. A very useful addition to the text is that in addition to the standard index there is a symptom index that allows the clinician to find parts of the text related to specific symptoms.

Dr. Jain is quick to acknowledge that in many instances, the evidence relating a particular drug to a particular neurological disorder is “weak” from an evidence-based standpoint. Nevertheless, he provides an important service by gathering these data into a very useable form for the clinician and citing the relevant literature. This compilation, almost certainly, will be of assistance to clinicians in helping them more readily and quickly identify drug-induced neurological disorders in their patients.

In addition to listing the drugs associated with a particular condition, most chapters also include brief sections on management of the condition. While these therapeutic recommendations are not exhaustive, they do provide a useful approach to the problem that is supported by references.

This is an excellent volume that I can recommend highly. It deserves a place on the bookshelf of every hospital library and clinicians would certainly be well-served by ready access to it. My only concern about recommending it for a personal library is that books like this can become dated rather quickly and while what it has to say about current drugs is likely to change only slowly, as new drugs come along the book will need to be updated continually or become obsolete. The cost of purchasing frequent new editions could be excessive for the individual library owner.

*Paul Cooper
London, Ontario*

ADVANCES IN NEUROLOGY VOLUME 86. PARKINSON'S DISEASE. 2001. Edited by Donald Calne, Susan M. Calne. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 479 pages. C\$253.50 approx.

Parkinson's Disease from the Advances in Neurology series arises from lectures presented at the 13th International Congress on Parkinson's Disease that took place in Vancouver, Canada in July 1999. This volume covers a wide range of topics that is broadly divided into five sections: The Melvin Yahr Lecture, Etiopathogenesis, Imaging, Medical Treatment and Surgical Treatment. These sections provide an up-to-date review focusing on the important new developments in the understanding of Parkinson's disease. There are 156 contributors that provide expert insight into the work that is being performed to better understand this disease from many different vantages.

The introduction of the dopamine precursor levodopa more than 30 years ago was a dramatic breakthrough in the treatment of Parkinson's disease. The first chapter, written by O. Hornykiewicz, gives a wonderful review of the development of levodopa that has remained the gold standard of treatment to this day from the perspective of his own work in the field for more than 40 years. He gives an overview of the current understanding and treatment options of the disease and introduces many questions that form the basis for future more in-depth chapters.

The background of the reader will determine how easy chapters

are to read and follow. For clinicians, some chapters may quickly become too complex to be easily followed, however most have clearly written summaries that provide the important messages that are being discussed. One aspect of Parkinson's disease research that has exploded in the last few years stems from studies related to the genetics of the disease, and three separate chapters cover this topic. The identification of mutations in the genes α -synuclein and parkin in families with inherited forms of the disease has caused a shift in thinking of how “sporadic” Parkinson's may be caused. The abnormal aggregation, inadequate clearance and interaction of these genes' products is just beginning to be understood, but will provide exciting new therapeutic options for patients. The last chapter in this section attempts to provide a synthesis of the huge volume of basic science work that has been done in the last 10 years, but does tend to concentrate too much on the MPTP model of Parkinson's.

Many aspects of Parkinson's disease, from basic receptor function to disease progression, have stemmed from neuroimaging studies. Seven different chapters are included that provide both basic background knowledge to the reader, as well as more advanced and complex studies of receptor interactions.

The medical treatment section of the book gives up-to-date information of not only the main therapeutic drug treatments, but also covers many other important topics that are common problems to patients but are often only discussed superficially. There are very good chapters devoted to vision, gait, sleep and sexual dysfunction that provide many helpful tips for any clinician who sees Parkinson's patients. The background for the development and use of the newly released dopamine agonists pramipexole, ropinirole, cabergoline (not in Canada) and the catechol O-methyltransferase (COMT) inhibitors are clearly presented. (One criticism of this section is why the chapter on neurophysiology was included here versus in the section early on in the chapter on pathogenesis). The final section on the surgical treatment of Parkinson's disease had each chapter written by the leading experts in the field, and deals with deep brain stimulation, lesioning procedures, and transplant therapies. Each technique is discussed in detail, demonstrating both their benefits and their limitations. The final chapter of the book by L. Laitinen, the modern pioneer of pallidotomies, highlights the main limitations for the future of these techniques being both economic and limited access to the procedures. He stresses the need to solve the primary cause of Parkinson's disease.

Our understanding of Parkinson's disease is evolving at a rapid pace, and this Advances in Neurology volume provides a relatively updated overview. Overall, this is a well-written book that is recommended for anyone interested in Parkinson's disease and wants an in-depth, well-referenced text that covers our current understanding and treatment of the disease.

*David A. Grimes
Ottawa, Ontario*

BRAIN DEATH. 2001. By Eelco F. M. Wijdicks. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 223 pages. C\$74.92 approx

This book is a comprehensive monograph on neurological issues encountered in treating patients who progress to brain death.

Scope: A comprehensive review of neurological problems relevant to all of the aspects that one encounters when dealing with brain dead patients.