

Book Reviews

ELEMENTI DI MIOPATOLOGIA. By Mauro Marolda. Published by Editoriale Scientifica (Napoli, Italy). 1986. 138 pages. Price approx. \$18.00 Cdn.

This is a concise and delightful monograph of muscle pathology written in Italian. It is intended as an introductory text rather than a definitive work, and is up to date with modern methods of histochemistry and electron microscopy. It is well organized into categories of neurogenic and myopathic alterations of muscles. For such a short book it is beautifully illustrated with well chosen, high quality colour photomicrographs, electron micrographs, and numerous line drawings that are very effective in emphasizing principal findings. Histograms of fibre types and morphometrics also are discussed. Humorous cartoons throughout the book are not at all distracting and help maintain the reader's interest. The quality of printing is exceptionally high. I recommend this book to residents and neurologists wanting a brief but thorough overview of muscle pathology, and even readers not fluent in Italian would enjoy and learn from the abundant illustrations that transcend language barriers. I hope that French and English language editions are eventually published.

*Harvey B. Sarnat
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STROKE: A CRITICAL APPROACH TO DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT. By D.T. Wade, R. Langton Hewer, C.E. Skilbeck and R.M. David. Published by Chapman and Hall Ltd., London and Year Book Medical Publishers Inc., Chicago, 1985. 377 pages. \$58.50 Cdn.

"Stroke: a Critical Approach to Diagnosis, Treatment and Management" is a book written for the clinician who cares for stroke patients. Richard Langton Hewer, the senior author, is the head of the Stroke Unit at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol, one of Britain's foremost clinical centres for the care of stroke victims. He is well qualified to provide a global perspective of the clinical management of stroke.

The book is divided into four major parts with an appendix. Part one, entitled "Epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment of stroke", presents information usually found in classical neurological texts. It is compact, well referenced but maybe somewhat limited in depth. The chapter on treatment and complications of acute stroke shows an admirable honesty in admitting the extent of our therapeutic ignorance and may rankle some traditional clinicians.

In part two the authors examine the methodological issue of clinically assessing cognitive, communicative, physical and emotional status. Part three considers recovery and rehabilitation in the same clinical dimensions. As in the chapter on acute treatment, the authors attempt to critically evaluate therapeutic efficacy of various rehabilitative interventions. It may just be possible that the criteria for valid evidence were not applied as stringently as in the former chapter.

Finally, part four focusses on organizational and economic aspects of stroke care and is of use to clinicians charged with planning health care delivery.

The particular strength of this book lies in its comprehensive clinical and methodological approach to the holistic care of the stroke patient. The emphasis on validated treatment efficacy and assessment reliability is novel in this type of literature. Primary and secondary prevention, probably the most effective interventions, were barely touched upon. Clearly identified sections on the current understanding of patho-physiology and on clinical prognosis would make this book more complete.

Despite these minor shortcomings, I feel that "Stroke: a Critical Approach to Diagnosis, Treatment and Management" should be readily available in any unit attempting integrated stroke care.

*Ralph Bloch
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STROKE — PATHOPHYSIOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS, MANAGEMENT, VOLUMES 1 AND 2. Edited by Henry J.M. Barnett, J.P. Mohr, Bennett M. Stein, and Frank M. Yatsu. Published by Churchill Livingstone. 1264 pages. \$254.50 Cdn.

After decades of neglect, the study of stroke appears to be achieving its deserved role in the hierarchy of human illness. Marshall's "Management of Cerebrovascular Disease", a small though excellent compendium dealing with most aspects of cerebrovascular disease, was the only textbook for many years. In the past few years, several more comprehensive updated texts have appeared. The two volumes on Stroke edited by Barnett, Mohr, Stein and Yatsu, however, are a totally comprehensive encyclopedia written largely by a group of authors many of whom are world renowned in their expertise. Volume I deals with pathophysiology, diagnosis and clinical manifestations of stroke. Volume II details vascular anomalies, medical conditions relating to stroke, and management (both medical and surgical).

The book encompasses every conceivable aspect of acute and chronic cerebrovascular disease. It is well written and well illustrated and the printed format is pleasing to the eye. However, it is not a book for the beginner, in spite of the broad spectrum of interest detailed in the preface. It is the best of its kind for the internist, the neurologist, the neurosurgeon and all others wishing access to world expertise in virtually every aspect one needs to know about stroke. It is essential not only for every university medical library, but also for libraries in hospitals and other medical institutions where state-of-the-art knowledge is needed. Private individuals, whether physicians or paramedical specialists should have no quibble with the price which is very appropriate to the encyclopedic information available.

Chapters which I personally found interesting or well illustrated were "Biochemistry of cerebral ischemia", "Brain edema", "Arachidonic acid metabolism", "Extracranial arterial disease", and "Management of cerebrovascular problems". The chapter on Binswanger's disease is fascinating, comprehensive and convincing, as is the description of Moyamoya. A few chapters might benefit from extra tables and illustrations.

These two volumes are unlikely to be surpassed in the foreseeable future. The editors should be congratulated for produc-