

lications. Organization is the strongest feature of this book. A large body of scattered information is gathered and presented in a concise fashion. The contents follow a logical pattern. The index and appendix are appropriate. The author is to be congratulated for his frequent inclusion of illustrations and tables which help greatly to clarify the text. He has kept the illustrations simple, yet thorough. Of special note are the well-labelled radiographs; a feature not often found in neurology texts. The extensive reference list following each chapter is highly commendable. Much up-to-date material is included. Controversial areas are fairly discussed; and the reader is provided with a currently accepted approach to these difficult areas. This book is a valuable resource for neurology and neurosurgery residents, electromyography fellows, and their senior colleagues. It should also prove useful to any other physician interested in peripheral nerve problems, including: neurosurgeons, plastic and orthopaedic surgeons. This excellent text is highly recommended.

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**FORENSIC NEUROPATHOLOGY.** By Jan E. Leestma. Published by Raven Press, New York. 464 pages. \$213Cdn approx.

Neuropathologists are thought by some to lead a rather quiet and contemplative existence, somewhat removed from the real world, and dealing with rare and complex diseases defying both classification or understanding of their causes. This is clearly not the case. Increasingly, the expertise of the neuropathologist has been sought in both criminal and civil courts; head injuries have long been an important issue, and in recent years, there has been an explosion of information about the neuropathology at pre- and post-natal events and of child abuse, which has had great significance in understanding of liability in the circumstance of the handicapped child.

Dr. Leestma is Professor of Pathology and Neurology at the University of Chicago School of Medicine and has had a vast experience in forensic neuropathology. This book, written largely by himself with the assistance of four collaborators is by far the best textbook in forensic neuropathology to appear. The descriptions and illustrations are of high quality, and emphasize particularly those findings likely to be of medical-legal significance in the interpretation of the case. Throughout the book there is wise advice to the pathologist with respect to controversial areas that will be of interest to the courts and could lead the unwary pathologist into difficulty. The chapters on perinatal problems, toxicology and child abuse are particularly informative and will be of great assistance to the pathologist who has had limited experience in these areas.

My only criticism of the book is of the second chapter, in which the author attempts to summarize the naturally occurring diseases of the nervous system in approximately 130 pages. I believe it would have been preferable to omit this chapter, making reference to the more comprehensive descriptions and discussions found in the standard textbooks.

This is an excellent book. It should be available to all pathol-

ogists, neurologists and neurosurgeons participating in medical-legal work.

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**ANEURYSMS AFFECTING THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.** By Bryce Weir. Published by Williams & Wilkins. 671 pages.

Dr. Weir's book on Aneurysms Affecting the Nervous System is divided into twelve chapters: history; epidemiology; medical, neurologic, and ophthalmologic aspects of aneurysms; special aneurysms; pathology; physiology and pharmacology of aneurysmal rupture; anatomy; special considerations in surgery; surgery: specific sites and results of series; vasospasm; radiology; anesthesia. There is an author and subject index.

History of aneurysms is covered very thoroughly by Dr. Weir. It is a very worthwhile review of the subject and will be very useful for students and practitioners in neurosurgery.

The chapter on epidemiology reviews the literature thoroughly and covers incidence and prevalence of aneurysms, sex distribution, survival from aneurysm rupture, prognostic factors, grading of aneurysms, long term follow up after aneurysm rupture, timing of surgery and outcome. The literature has been extensively covered, providing the reader with an extremely useful reference.

Chapter 3, covers genetics and associated disease states, and this also is an excellent chapter. The ophthalmologic and medical neurologic aspects are dealt with in detail.

Chapter 4, special aneurysms (nonsaccular and saccular) covers a wide range of subjects and it is dealt with in a very refreshing manner. Techniques for exposure and clipping of aneurysms are included in this chapter. Pathology and pharmacology of aneurysmal rupture are covered in chapters 5 and 6, and chapter 7 covers very thoroughly the anatomy of the cerebral vasculature. Chapter 8, covering special considerations in surgery, deals with all the permutations and combinations that one might encounter having to deal with complex aneurysmal anatomy. Chapter 9 covers the results as well as various types of exposures for specific aneurysms. These are very worthwhile chapters for all concerned in neurosurgery. Chapter 10 is an excellent review of vasospasm, including the author's own expertise on this very difficult subject. Chapters on radiology and anesthesia conclude the book.

This is an excellent book. It approaches the subject differently than other books on aneurysms, and is extremely worthwhile for all those interested in the subject of aneurysms of the nervous system.

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**INFECTIONS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM** Volume 8. 1987. By Peter G.E. Kennedy and Richard T. Johnson. Published by Butterworths. 284 pages. \$60Cdn approx.

Modern Trends in Neurology was the predecessor to the current Butterworths series. As stated by the editors, the legacy of publishing on subjects of topical interest is maintained.