

Book Reviews

PRINCIPLES OF NEUROLOGY. Third edition. By Drs. R.D. Adams and M. Victor. Published by McGraw-Hill Ryerson. 1985. \$87.75

Now in its third edition "Principles of Neurology" remains what it always has been since its original introduction in 1977 — arguably the best single-volume exposition of clinical Neurology in the English language. It has been further refined, polished and appropriately updated in this new edition, while retaining the tried and true original format. This comprises a logical progression from presenting symptoms to neurologic syndromes, through to a full discussion of specific disease entities, the latter being grouped together into classical categories as individual chapters. For those few who may not know, the original volume was loosely based on the neurological content of "Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine", although with very considerable expansion so as to be an appropriate introduction to clinical Neurology at the resident level.

Those readers already familiar with the previous two editions will find only improvements in this one. A short new chapter on metabolic myopathies has been added, while some others have been extensively revised. The addition of appropriate new material is widespread throughout the book, and this edition is as up-to-date as a general text of this kind could reasonably be expected to be. A number of new figures and illustrations have been added, and others deleted. For the most part the bibliographies at the end of each chapter are a guide to classic references.

One of the criticisms of previous editions has been that the authors at times are inclined to ramble a bit and express too much individual opinion on certain issues. I would counter by commenting that neurologists of such immense experience and accomplishment as Drs. Adams and Victor quite likely have a right to their opinions, and I personally find their occasionally iconoclastic views very interesting and entertaining reading.

A book of this scope must necessarily have a few flaws and cannot hope to be all-encompassing, but it is a work of immense scholarship and can be unhesitatingly recommended as a sound and authoritative textbook of clinical Neurology.

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NEUROBIOLOGY OF LEARNING AND MEMORY. By G. Lynch, J.L. McGaugh and N.M. Weinberger. Published by Guilford Press, 528 pages. \$65.00

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY OF MEMORY. By L.R. Squire and N. Butters. Published by Guilford Press, 655 pages. \$65.00.

Interest in the study of memory has a considerable history in scientific thought. However, there is nothing in that history to match the explosion of studies, of conceptual models, and of methodological refinements which have occurred in the realm of memory research within the past 30 years. For those whose study of memory has been limited to the products of the bedside mental status examination or even of the venerable Wechsler Memory Scale, there is much to be learned. With growth of this sort, there is a periodic need for thorough, comprehensive reviews of the empirical and theoretical field. It is therefore

satisfying, if a bit surprising, to see two recent vintage (1984) books from the same publisher attempting to cover this complex area.

The two texts differ primarily in emphasis rather than in content. Both offer research summaries and commentary in areas ranging from the cellular to the behavioral levels of analysis. Both feature articles by many of the most prolific and stimulating researchers currently active. Both have been the beneficiaries of relatively rapid publication, ensuring the reporting of up-to-date findings rather than collections of primarily historical importance.

The Squire and Butters text comprises three sections. The first deals with human memory and amnesia, the second with studies of memory in non-human primates, and the third with memory in non-primates. Each section presents a diversity of experimental approaches and attempts at integration among the various levels of analysis where possible. Lynch, McGaugh, and Weinberger have organized their work in 4 parts, dealing, respectively, with the nature of memory, with its neurophysiology and pharmacology, and with the role of events at the cellular level in memory. This work is made even more valuable by the inclusion of critical commentaries within each section which offer integrative analyses of the data and theories presented in the basic chapters.

These two texts are encyclopedic in scope, provocative and timely in their content, and well edited. They are clearly not intended for the beginner in this field but will serve as a benchmark for the researcher and the serious student of memory for many years.

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EVOKED POTENTIAL PRIMER: VISUAL, AUDITORY AND SOMATOSENSORY EVOKED POTENTIALS IN CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS. By Rainer Spehlmann. Published by Butterworth, 1985.

This book is an introduction to the use of evoked potentials in clinical diagnosis. Although it is similar in format to the author's "EEG Primer," it is quite different in style. The "EEG Primer" distilled the literature and provided wise counsel; the "Evoked Potential Primer" reviews much more literature and presents much less judgement.

The book is a complete and up-to-date review of the literature on the evoked potentials. Just over 1500 papers are referenced by a well organized text. If one wishes to look up a paper discussing the effects of disease A on evoked potential Z, this book is very good. I certainly found papers that I had not previously come across in my haphazard reading.

Some of the book's many tables are very helpful. I particularly liked the tables classifying abnormal waveforms and suggesting clinical interpretations for each. There are few other places to find an interpretative sequence that goes from the recorded waveform toward the pathology rather than vice versa. At times, however, the tables in the present volume are more tedious than helpful. One does not really need to know all the