

humans that EEG potentials arose from the brain and were not consequent to other electrical sources, could have been more fully described. These two scientists form the basis of pioneering studies by Penfield and Jasper in Montreal and therefore of modern neurosurgical therapy.

This work by Eadie and Bladin is more fully appreciated through a second reading. The authors considered it necessary to document the observations and theories of many writers leading to repetitiveness in some chapters. In places, the writing style could have been compressed without loss of message. Greater emphasis on the place of epilepsy concepts within scientific knowledge of the day would have provided a valuable perspective.

Nonetheless, this book is a careful compilation of much valuable material. The authors have succeeded in their intent. Clinical and basic neuroscientists with an interest in the historical evolution of epilepsy, observations and considerations will find this volume of distinct value.

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MANUAL OF NEUROLOGY. 2002 Seventh Edition.. By Maurice Victor, Allan H Ropper. Published by McGraw-Hill, Medical Publishing Edition, New York. 546 pages. C\$64.00 approx.

This “mini-book” is essentially a summary of the larger “Principles of Neurology” by the same authors. It is, however, not a brief summary and, at over 500 pages, is a respectable book in itself. The authors point out in the preface that, although this small volume is patterned after “Principles of Neurology”, one book is not a substitute for the other. In fact, they are meant to be companion volumes, with the small version satisfying the immediate practical needs of the student and resident, but the reader is indeed expected to turn to the larger volume for more information when time permits.

This small volume is a useful book, and essentially has the same table of contents as the larger parent version. This is a tried and true format and has benefited physicians for several decades. However, like all small books that attempt to cover a very larger subject area, this book has significant shortcomings. For example, in the section dealing with the use of TPA in ischemic stroke, it is not mentioned that all patients should have a prior brain CT scan, and that the presence of intracranial hemorrhage is an absolute contraindication to giving the medication. Likewise, in the section on “Hysterical Seizures”, no apparent major distinction is made between seizures resulting from a conversion reaction, and those resulting from malingering.

Some sections of the book seem out of date. For example in the prophylactic therapy of cluster headache, prednisone and lithium are emphasized, but there is no mention of verapamil. In the migraine section, the triptans are referred to along with ergotamine as “ergot preparations”. Oddly enough, cyproheptadine is referred to as a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. The information on tension headaches is misleading, in that it seems to suggest that chronic tension-type headache is one of the most common headache types, and completely ignores the episodic form.

Nevertheless, this book is a compact and very useful source of neurological information. It is for the most part informative and relatively up-to-date. It is, however, difficult to see exactly for whom this book is intended. With chapters on the aging of the nervous

system, for example, it is obviously not meant to be simply a quick treatment reference for the medical student and house officer, and in any case its therapeutic sections are not well enough developed for that purpose. On the other hand, anyone wishing to understand the diseases of the nervous system, and the approach to therapy will need the larger “Principles of Neurology” parent volume.

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CURRENT MANAGEMENT IN CHILD NEUROLOGY. 2002 Second edition. Edited by Bernard L. Maria. Published by BC Decker Inc. 562 pages. C\$205.54 approx.

The second edition of Dr. Maria’s book presents a series of brief chapters on common topics in child neurology by a large group of highly respected authors.

The book is divided into three sections: 1) clinical practice trends, 2) the office visit and 3) the hospitalized child.

Section 1 consists of eight chapters with topics such as how to run a successful practice, how to do the neurological examination in children and useful internet sites. Much of the content in the initial chapters seems directed to the primary care pediatrician in the United States. The chapter on the neurologic examination, by Drs. Diadori and Carmant is excellent and the chapter on the internet and child neurology offers a useful array of websites.

Section 2 (The Office Visit) deals with the most commonly seen conditions in pediatric neurology. In this era of evidence-based medicine, I found the paucity of references unusual. References to authors and their work are frequent in the text but the source of the cited work is seldom provided. There are seven chapters of various aspects of headache. Although these are excellently written, common migraine associated phenomena, such as the “Alice in Wonderland” phenomenon, which frequently confuse pediatricians are not discussed. There are 13 seizure related chapters and five chapters which deal with various aspects of ADHD. Other “large ticket” items, such as developmental delay are dealt with in depth. The remainder of the section offers a series of three to four page overviews of various topics in child neurology. The authors often seem constrained by the space given them. For example, inborn errors of metabolism are dealt with in five pages.

Section 3 (the hospitalized child) deals with neonatal seizures and the treatment of status epilepticus in addition to such topics as raised intracranial pressure.

Overall this book is well-organized but is sometimes superficial and fails to deal with the less common pediatric neurology conditions. I was uniformly unable to find information on topics related to challenging patients in my clinic. The book is well-written and may be valuable to pediatricians but it will not suffice as a reference source for pediatric neurologists either in practice or in training.

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