

disease and neurological disorders. This further expands the coverage of this book. A complete list of references is also included.

Overall, this is a very well written book that provides a comprehensive and up-to-date account of the neurological problems of coeliac disease. It is recommended for both gastroenterologists and neurologists.

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PATHOLOGY AND GENETICS TUMOURS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. 1997. Edited by Paul Kleihues, Webster K. Cavenee. Published by Oxford University Press Canada. 255 pages. C\$137.95.

At long last, there is an outstanding text book complete with beautiful illustrations and photomicrographs, which unites the pathology and the genetics of tumours of the nervous system. Paul Kleihues and Webster K. Cavenee have assembled an impressive array of neuroscientists, neuropathologists, and molecular biologists who have all written well and succinctly on their assigned topics. In many ways, this book takes after the well known and established Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) fascicle on tumours of the nervous system. However, there is one major difference between the present text book, and the previously published AFIP volume. That being the extraordinary presentation here of the latest in the molecular genetics, molecular biology, and molecular neuropathology of the various tumours that affect the brain and spinal cord.

Each of the chapters begins with a summary which is placed quite attractively on a colour image background of the tumour type described. This is most effective. Perhaps the best of these title pages, and they are all good, is the one that deals with the familial tumour syndromes involving the nervous system. On this particular title page, all the distinct neurogenetic syndromes are delineated along with their chromosomal localization, their nervous system involvement, other cutaneous manifestations, and distinct features. Within each chapter is a well thought out subdivision into component parts which reappears throughout the text book for the different tumours. As such, one can readily find the most important aspects of the tumour type described such as grading system, incidence, localization, clinical features, histopathology, neuroimaging, and, most interestingly, the latest findings in the molecular biology and molecular genetics of each of these tumour types.

For a soft covered text, the photomicrographs and photos in colour are outstanding. I draw attention to the representation of glioblastoma in the first chapter in which nine gross autopsy specimens are shown in juxtaposition to illustrate the macroscopic features of glioblastoma multiforme. When it comes to metastatic tumours, chapter 16, there is an outstanding collage of nineteen different coloured prints of metastatic tumours as they affect the brain and spinal cord. For the most part, these photographic representations are very clear, and capture the salient pathology. Occasionally, and this is rare, the figures are too small to actually make out the distinctive features.

Perhaps more so than any other organ in the body, the numbers of tumours that can affect the brain are truly legion. As such, there are rare but well described tumour subtypes about which not much concerning the genetics is known. For example,

the rare variant of medulloblastoma known as the medulloblastoma, the melanotic medulloblastoma or the lipomatous medulloblastoma are presented, but details surrounding their origins and genetics are, of course, lacking. It is truly notable, however, that many of the tumour types described have had the greater part of the molecular genetics worked out by the authors of each of the individual chapters.

A very valuable resource in the final pages of the book is a list of the contributors complete with their telephone numbers, fax and e-mail addresses. Even more valuable is the list of references. Almost 1800 current references are provided in the back of the text book which provide a comprehensive update on each of the tumour types to 1997.

As the true distinction between pathology and molecular genetics become blurred with the advent of molecular biology and the discoveries made in the past several years, a textbook such as this is essential for scientists, practicing neurologists and neurosurgeons, and students in the field. The clarity of the division of tumours into their subtypes, the beautiful illustrations including sufficient details on clinical presentation along with radiographs, and the very well represented gross and microscopic pathology plates will make this a treasured item in university, hospital, and personal libraries. It is anticipated that this book will be readily updated in subsequent editions to allow for the latest changes in the genetics of human brain tumours.

I view this book as the most valuable and comprehensive text on the neuropathology of brain tumours that I have ever had the pleasure of reviewing. It is highly recommended to the readership of the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences.

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DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM IN CHILDHOOD. 1998. By Jean Aicardi. Edition 2nd. Published by Cambridge University Press. 897 pages. \$C 351.00.

Undertaking a book review can be an onerous task, particularly if the reviewer attempts to read the book from cover to cover. Reviewing Jean Aicardi's "Diseases of the Nervous System in Childhood" was a distinct pleasure rather than a burden. In my opinion, Dr. Aicardi's work is the most outstanding textbook in the field of child neurology. It is written by an individual with a wealth of experience who has a knack of explaining complex problems in a concise and meaningful fashion.

The book assumes an identity of its own, almost as if Dr. Aicardi is present in person reviewing a case at the bedside or discussing a patient problem in the clinic. Questions that come to mind are answered in the following paragraph. The text is replete with tables outlining differential diagnoses or things to contemplate when confronted by a specific problem. There are appropriate flow diagrams which guide the reader in the decision making process and lots of personal vignettes and pieces of advice which add a special "flavor" to the textbook. An ample selection of figures and illustrations nicely complement the major points outlined in the text. Dr. Aicardi focuses on evidence-based medicine and the references are contemporary and carefully selected.

No aspect of the child's nervous system is omitted! There are 11 major sections [each with subdivisions] which include fetal