

*stage even when muscle strength is relatively preserved* is misleading to the novice, and thrombolysis as emergency stroke treatment is dismissed in a cursory fashion. In contrast, sections concerning movement disorders, hereditary ataxias and HIV are more current, and a section on neurorehabilitation reflects the recognition of a need for outcome measurement in the long term management of patients with neurologic disease.

In summary, *Clinical Neurology* will appeal to its intended audience. The authors transmit their enjoyment of clinical neurology and a gift for clinical teaching. The text is easy to access and has value as an overview of clinical neurology for the student and junior physician. Given the length and cost however, many areas are approached simplistically and superficially. More aggressive editing could have reduced the size and still allowed a very useful review or reference resource for the target audience. The experienced generalist and the neurologist will find the work lacking in depth and critical approach.

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IMMUNOLOGICAL AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF THE PERIPHERAL NERVES. 1998. Edited by N. Latov, J.H.J. Wokke, J.J. Kelly, Jr. Published by Cambridge University Press. 435 pages. \$C188.50.

This book is a welcome addition to the many neurological monographs that appear annually because it presents concise summaries and, usually, critical commentary about the literature relating to these conditions. The references in each chapter are generally extensive and presented in a three column easy-to-use format. Some chapters, however, did not include references beyond 1995. This may only reflect the chapter completion date in this multiple author, multiple-editor book because it is hard to imagine that there has been little worthy of note published in the last three years in this very dynamic field.

This book's five parts are well organized and the contents of parts I, III and IV could easily stand on their own. The first chapter of part I develops the theme of immune interactions in the peripheral nervous system. It is full of useful information, but it suffers, as do other chapters to a lesser extent, by the lack of a glossary of the many acronyms contained in the text. The second chapter briefly explores the epidemiology of the immune-mediated polyneuropathies and the third chapter nicely completes part I with a discussion of the immune-mediated experimental neuropathies.

There was probably no great need to include chapters four and five in part II on clinical evaluation and differential diagnosis and on electrophysiological studies respectively because they duplicate information that can be found for the most part elsewhere in the book. The exception is the section on the pitfalls and detection of conduction block in chapter 5 that should be read by anyone practising electrodiagnostic medicine. Chapter 6 in part II, immunopathological studies in immune mediated neuropathies, nicely summarizes the other laboratory approaches to the diagnosis of specific immunological disorders.

Part III contains 12 chapters that deal with the immune mediated neuropathies from Guillain-Barré syndrome through to toxin and drug induced immune neuropathies. They are generally well organized and are good summary pieces for those wishing to

learn more about the individual topics. Several of the chapters end without a summary statement or directions for the future.

Part IV treats the prominent neuropathies caused by infections but does not have the introductory, investigative or therapeutic summary chapters, as does the immune mediated neuropathy section.

Part V, therapy and management, contains well-written chapters that are properly and well treated in other monographs rather than being included here. The exception is chapter 24, immune suppression and immunomodulation, which very nicely brings together and explains the various therapeutic options for the immune mediated neuropathies.

In summary, this is a good book that should be part of any hospital or group library because it brings under one cover an organized body of information on these two groups of important peripheral nerve disorders. Its cost of \$C 188.50 will inhibit many who have any budget limitations. Its target audience should be neurology residents, general neurologists and those who wish to broaden their knowledge about immune disorders of the peripheral nervous system and selected infectious diseases that affect the peripheral nervous system.

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EPILEPSY AND OTHER NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS IN COELIAC DISEASE. 1997. Edited by G. Gobbi, F. Andermann, S. Naccarato, G. Banchini. Published by John Libbey & Co. Ltd. 378 pages. \$C148.20.

The main credit of this book is the bringing together of experts in all three areas: neurology, gastroenterology and immunology to provide a comprehensive account of coeliac disease and its neurological problems. The first three chapters cover the gastroenterologic aspect of coeliac disease. This is followed by several chapters (chapter 6-9) on the immunological aspects of coeliac disease and mechanisms whereby the brain and nervous system may be affected by the disease.

The two chapters on prevalence of coeliac disease, being confined only to South India and Republic of San Marino, would have been more informative if they had been replaced by an overall account of world-wide prevalence.

As can be expected, the major portion of this book is devoted to epilepsy and other neurological complications of coeliac disease. The chapters on epilepsy are well written and provide comprehensive data on clinical, electrophysiological, imaging and neuropathological studies. The overlap between Sturge-Weber syndrome and coeliac disease, though essential, is slightly over-emphasized with two chapters devoted to this topic.

The remaining part of this book gives a systematic account of various other neurological disorders including psychiatric disorders (depression, autism, schizophrenia), progressive myoclonic ataxia, dementia, cognitive disturbance, peripheral neuropathies, muscular disorders and other neurological complications, including stroke and migraine and provides a comprehensive review of these topics. Throughout these chapters, there are often discussions on mechanisms of how these neurological complications are induced.

At the end of this book, the authors also inserted an addendum which included 25 articles on various topics relating to coeliac

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