

lishment of rapport with the patient, for diagnosis or for counselling.

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**STEVE: REMEMBRANCES OF STEPHEN W. KUFFLER.** 1990. Edited by U.J. McMahan. Published by Sinauer Associated Inc. 141 pages. \$16 Cdn. approx.

Kuffler, the founding chairman of the Department of Neurobiology at Harvard University died just over 10 years ago, in October 1980. He is considered by many to have been the dominant figure during the 1960's and 70's in the field of neuroscience when it was emerging as a new discipline in its own right. Students whose knowledge of the scientific literature is limited to the recent years covered by computer searches might wonder "why all the fuss?". A few hours spent with this short book will be well worth their time in acquainting them with the many fundamental contributions made by this remarkable scientist in areas of neuroscience as diverse as transmitter identification, the discovery of retinal receptive fields and the discovery of the intrafusal motor system. Although this volume does contain a standard, brief biography (compiled by Sir Bernard Katz), its foremost attraction is its format which consists mostly of a collection of letters and remembrances from former students, colleagues and friends of Kuffler. These vignettes reveal Kuffler as a warm hearted teacher and friend as well as an outstanding scientist whose passion for his science went hand in hand with his love and enjoyment of life. They show that science could be fun and create in the mind of this reviewer a sense of nostalgia for that time when the quest for grant monies did not compete with the desire to pursue a fundamentally interesting problem not necessarily related to the "disease du jour".

Many of Kuffler's colleagues and postdoctoral fellows are now leaders of modern neuroscience. It goes without saying that their memories of Kuffler and their recounting of their interactions with him reveal as much about themselves as it does about Kuffler. So, for the reader who may have wondered about modern scientific personalities, this is the chance to get to know them better through their own words – people like Hunt, Hubel, Wiesel, Nicholls, Kravitz, Furshpan, Gershenfeld, Cohen, Spitzer, van Essen, Patterson, Purves, to name but a few. Many readers will wish that their names could also have been on that list of students and colleagues. They should read the book, it's the next best thing.

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**HANDBOOK OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS.** 1990. Edited by Stuart D. Cook. Published by Marcel Dekker Inc. 528 pages. \$138 Cdn.

This volume consists of a collection of reviews, many by the acknowledged experts in their respective fields. The volume covers most of the major topics of contemporary relevance to multiple sclerosis (MS). The first half of the book deals with contributions of epidemiology, genetics, virology and immunology to the cause and pathogenesis of MS. One chapter is devoted

to the clinical aspects of the disease. Pathology and basic electrophysiology of demyelination are each reviewed in one chapter. Clinically-applicable tests for MS, including CSF analysis, evoked potentials and neuroimaging are each covered in a separate chapter. Finally, the major conventional treatment for MS, corticosteroids, and many research-based treatments (e.g. immunosuppressants, interferons, monoclonal antibodies, etc.) are each reviewed in separate chapters.

The chapters are generally well written and referenced and provide up-to-date information on the topics covered. Some subjects are covered in greater detail, whereas some, obviously due to limitations of space and the emphasis of the volume, are only superficially covered (e.g. clinical aspects). The treatment of each subject conforms to generally accepted concepts established by the leaders of MS research of the last decade. Similar presentations of the same material is generally available in other volumes or in journal reviews by the same authors. The material is not synthesized so as to address both sides of controversial issues such as: What is the relative magnitude of genetic and environmental contributions to the etiology of MS? How convincing is the evidence supporting a viral etiology? What is the optimum treatment for the steroid-unresponsive patient with MS?

The section on therapeutics reviews a large number of studies that deal with a broad variety of different therapeutic modalities. The introduction on the conduct of trials in MS and quantitation of disease activity is far too brief and superficial. A discussion of the goals of treatment (e.g., prevention of attacks, preventing the progressive phase of MS, treating the progressive phase) would have been a valuable introduction for the clinician who is not an expert in these issues.

The volume is of value to the neurologist with a general interest in MS, who wishes to have a collection of updated, well-referenced reviews on a variety of subjects surrounding the cause and treatment of MS. It is not of great value to the clinician looking for a clinical resource for the care of patients as the rather misleading title "Handbook of Multiple Sclerosis" might suggest. Nor is it particularly useful for the MS investigator, who would likely have similar chapters by the same authors in other volumes in his library.

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**ESSENTIALS OF CHILD NEUROLOGY.** 1990. By Suresh Kotagal. Published by Ishiyaku EuroAmerica, Inc., St. Louis, Tokyo. 192 pages. \$51 Cdn. approx.

A surprisingly large amount of practical, factual neurological data is contained within the 192 pages of this short textbook. The book is directed toward general paediatricians, adult neurologists who occasionally consult on paediatric patients, and especially trainees in these two disciplines; it also could serve as an initial introductory text for paediatric neurology residents. A broad overview of the most common clinical problems in child neurology is presented in a lucid and easily readable text supplemented by flow charts for diagnostic investigations of presenting symptoms and signs such as developmental regression and macrocephaly, readily understandable tables, and carefully cho-