

the complacent will rely too much on such condensed, uncritically presented knowledge.

Nonetheless, it is a little book that I would like in my pocket or office desk for quick accessibility of reasonably current, potted knowledge. It would be nice if it could be supplemented by (not replaced by) a CD-ROM, or better yet, a regularly updated website that could be downloaded onto a personal digital assistant, to fit even better into the neurologist's pocket.

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**HANDBOOK OF ESSENTIAL TREMOR AND OTHER TREMOR DISORDERS. FIRST EDITION.** 2005. Edited by Kelly E. Lyons, Rajesh Pahwa. Published by Taylor & Francis Group. 389 pages. Price C\$246.

The first half of this book by Lyons and Pahwa is dedicated to essential tremor, the most common cause of pathological tremor. It begins with a review of the history of essential tremor followed by a chapter on epidemiology and etiology. The chapter on pathophysiology of essential tremor is interesting and reasonably detailed. It is of use to residents learning about tremor physiology and for those interested in movement disorders, but not particularly to the practicing physician. Other topics presented in Part I include animal models, neuropathology and neurochemistry, neuroimaging, surgical treatment, quality of life, and the role of physical and occupational therapies.

The chapters especially germane to the practicing neurologist include differential diagnoses and clinical characteristics, clinical assessment of essential tremor, and medical treatment. These are well written. In particular, the chapter on differential diagnosis and clinical characteristics of essential tremor is excellent.

Part II covers other tremor disorders including parkinsonism, dystonia and cerebellar tremor. Less common tremor disorders such as orthostatic and task specific tremors are included as well as a nice review of post-traumatic tremor. The chapter on infectious tremor is thorough to a fault. As almost any infectious disease may cause or exacerbate an underlying tremor condition, the chapter is too long and not very useful for the practicing neurologist.

The chapter on physiological tremor is well done and nicely supplements the pathophysiology of essential tremor chapter in Part I. The book concludes with a chapter on psychogenic tremor. After reading the chapter, one is left with the possibly false impression that psychogenic tremor is a frequently undiagnosed cause of tremor. I suspect this is related to referral bias, as three large tertiary care centres (two US, one Canadian) were selected for the studies reported.

This book is edited by two leading experts in tremor. They have done a commendable job and the overall quality of writing is high. Some chapters are easier to read and flow better than others and there is variable depth in terms of the references.

This book is aimed at those with an interest in movement disorders. I recommend the chapter on drug and toxin induced tremor for all neurologists. For neurologists in general practice, I

think their money could be better spent on a book encompassing all the movement disorders and not one devoted solely to tremor.

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**ADVANCES AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS IN NEUROSURGERY. VOLUME 30.** 2005. Edited by JD Pickard, N. Akalan, C. DiRocco, et al. Published by Springer. 289 pages. Price C\$190.

This multiauthored volume is the 30th in the Advances and Technical Standards in Neurosurgery Series. The series was first published in 1974, and is sponsored by the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies. The intention of its editors is to present fields of neurosurgery in which important recent advances have been made.

The first section of this volume, "Advances", includes four chapters: "Depolarization Phenomena in Traumatic and Ischemic Brain Injury", "What is Magnetoencephalography and why is it Relevant to Neurosurgery?", "Basic and Clinical Aspects of Olfaction", and "Cranial Venous Outflow Obstruction and Pseudotumor Cerebri Syndrome". The second section, "Technical Standards", includes two chapters: "Sacral Neuromodulation in Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction", and "Prevention and Treatment of Postoperative Pain with Particular Reference to Children".

The first chapter serves as a comprehensive review of depolarization phenomena in traumatic and ischemic brain injury. It describes the history and physiology of "cortical spreading depression" [of Leão]. There is also a review of the suspected role of depolarizations in the pathophysiology of the following disorders that affect humans: migraine, transient global amnesia, concussion and traumatic brain injury, ischemic stroke, intracerebral hemorrhage, and subarachnoid hemorrhage. The authors conclude with their reflections on the possible biological significance of cortical spreading depression.

The following chapter describes the technique of magnetoencephalography (MEG). There is a review of the physics that form the basis for MEG, and a description of the clinical applications of this technique in neurosurgical practice. This chapter is brief but provides the reader with a comprehensive review of the subject.

The third chapter covers the basic and clinical aspects of olfaction. The anatomy of the olfactory system is reviewed. The authors use only one figure to assist the reader in understanding the anatomy, and I believe it would have been helpful to have additional diagrams. Measurement of olfactory function is also discussed. They mention the use of electro-olfactograms, however the description is rather superficial and did not allow me to understand how this test is carried out. A review of the disorders of smell including a section of treatment is provided.

A very detailed and comprehensive discussion of cranial venous outflow obstruction and pseudotumor cerebri syndrome is presented in the following chapter, with appropriate use of tables and figures. The authors also describe the investigation and treatment of venous sinus obstruction in patients with pseudotumor cerebri, and provide

a useful flow chart describing a general approach to the management of these patients.

The chapter on sacral neuromodulation in lower urinary tract dysfunction begins with a review of the anatomy and physiology of the lower urinary tract. This is followed by a review of the historical evolution of functional surgery for lower urinary tract dysfunction. A detailed description of the technique of sacral nerve stimulation is presented, and patient selection for this therapeutic modality is discussed. The technical description is complete with anatomical and radiological figures in order to allow the surgeon to successfully locate the S3 foramen where the stimulating electrodes are typically placed. Results, complications, and costs of sacral nerve stimulation are also reviewed.

The final chapter reviews the prevention and treatment of postoperative pain in children. Commonly used pediatric pain scales are reviewed. A stepwise approach to analgesic pharmacotherapy is described. The various classes of non-opioid and opioid analgesics are reviewed. The use of patient-controlled analgesia in children is also discussed.

In summary, this volume of *Advances and Technical Standards in Neurosurgery* succeeds in presenting a comprehensive review of the individual topics covered in this book. In my opinion, the broad and disparate range of subjects presented in this volume unfortunately represents this book's greatest weakness. It is unlikely that all topics will interest an individual reader. In view of this book's significant cost, I doubt many individuals will be willing to purchase this reference, particularly if they only wish to review one or two of the topics covered.

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**ATLAS OF MIGRAINE AND OTHER HEADACHES. SECOND EDITION.** 2005. Edited by Stephen D. Silberstein, M. Alan Stiles, William B. Young. Published by Taylor & Francis Group. 138 pages. Price C\$129.

This "Headache Atlas" is an interesting but unusual book. In the forward, a veteran headache expert James W. Lance, likens reading this atlas to "ambling through an art gallery". If one takes this approach, the book is indeed a pleasant experience with images ranging from the gar-pike skull which Champlain used to successfully treat his migraine headache on the shores of the lake which now bears his name, to the latest CT and MRI images of patients with various secondary headache disorders. As Stephen Silberstein indicates in the preface, the Atlas includes both historical and classical images, and new images that reflect the most current thinking about headache. With regard to the later, there are informative illustrations and tables which show the pathophysiology of migraine, and the receptor types activated by antimigraine drugs.

The chapter on secondary headaches is especially rich in neuroimaging illustrations, which include an image of an empty sella in a patient with idiopathic intracranial hypertension, and a very interesting MRI of an acute subdural hematoma which lies below the tentorium.

This multi-authored book does suffer from uneven quality among

its chapters, and non-uniformity in style. Some chapters carefully refer in the text to all of the figures, others do not. In some chapters, many complex figures are left somewhat in limbo, as the text does not weave a connecting thread between them. Fortunately, long figure legends usually supply the necessary detail to make the images a useful learning experience but not always. The occasional figure is mislabelled. For example, in figure 6.10, where the ordinate indicates "number of attacks", the number of individuals or patients is likely meant.

Some illustrations clearly require more explanation. For example, figure 5.17 shows a brain MRI scan of a woman with headache who has a small pineal cyst. This is presumably an incidental finding, but nothing in the text nor the figure legend indicates what symptoms the author ascribed to this finding.

In short, this book is an interesting addition to the library of any neurologist interested in headache. Some chapters are very informative as well as visually appealing, other less informative. If future editions could include a CD-rom with the illustrations on it, this book would indeed be a gem.

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**EMERGING NEUROLOGICAL INFECTIONS. FIRST EDITION.** 2005. Edited by Christopher Power, Richard Johnson. Published by Taylor & Francis Group. 505 pages. Price C\$245.

The fields of infectious disease and clinical neuroscience continue their climb in complexity and impact on human health. With this book Drs. Power and Johnson and a small army of authors successfully tackle the sizeable overlap in these domains of medicine.

Opening (Microbial Evolution and Emerging Diseases) and closing (Future Perspectives) chapters surround current and comprehensive reviews of neurological infections both emerging and re-emerging. A book of this nature would be sorely handicapped without a global view and this is one of the book's strengths in authorship and scope. Highlights include excellent and thought provoking discussions on human and microbe adaptation, mechanisms of transmission and resistance, patterns of mutation, ecosystem health, and many of the mistakes and frailties of modern society that make us such easy targets for the microbial world. The reader also finds valuable pathogen-specific reviews and even more valuable perspective through the chapters devoted to Nipah viruses, Prions, Rabies, Flaviviruses, HIV and others.

The book is a good resource for anyone interested in clinical neuroscience and infectious disease. It will leave you with an updated sense of the field and an important reminder with respect to our status on the planet; an organism at odds with many other organisms, especially ourselves.

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