

are not discussed. In addition, the Parkinson Foundation of Canada's address is not correct.

My review of this book is therefore mixed. The objective of the book is partially met with good information about Parkinson's disease and its treatment. Unfortunately the style of writing, the inappropriate focus on the potential genetic etiology of this disorder and the lack of "Canadian content" take away from its strengths.

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**DIGITAL EEG IN CLINICAL PRACTICE.** 1996. By Peter K.H. Wong. Published by Lippincott-Raven Publishers. 296 pages. \$C111.00

I can think of no-one whose background, interests and capabilities would better equip him or her to write a book on digital EEG than those of Dr. Wong. Therefore, this work represents an entirely appropriate match of ability and orientation with subject matter. Indeed, the illustrations are surprisingly clear given the quality of many printers attached to digital EEG apparatus.

A future edition might benefit from co-authorship with an electroencephalographer who is less familiar with the technical aspects of digital EEG than is Dr. Wong. This would create a more "user friendly" introduction which might benefit from instructive diagrams and a more practical "how to do it" approach. Prominent in such an introduction might be guidelines as to how a digital EEG product should be evaluated by the potential buyer. This applies not only to a demonstration of the full capability of the setup, but also a complete detailing of its limitations.

One such example is the annoying vertical lines which makers and vendors of such printers feel all electroencephalographers treasure. Dr. Wong had no option but to include several examples of such print-outs.

The "clinical examples" could be subdivided by subject and so labelled. Most legends do not appear on the same page as the figures, requiring the reader to flip back and forth. This difficulty is compounded by designating montages as runs 1, 2, 3 and thus requiring the reader to memorize these after they are indicated on page 23.

Although one may quibble with some of the legends, the illustrations are generally well chosen and do illustrate how appearances may be altered by montage, sensitivity (not gain), filtering and paper speed.

How digital data are handled by his own department (Chapter 3) is a valuable inclusion.

This book will be of interest to those neurologists with prior knowledge of electroencephalography and will be a useful addition to the libraries of departments with digital components.

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**PATHOGENESIS AND THERAPY OF AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS.** *Advances in Neurology*, Volume 68. 1995. Edited by Georges T. Serratrice, Theodore L. Munsat. Published by Lippincott - Raven. 312 pages. \$C150.00

This text represents a compilation of papers presented at a conference held on October 28-29, 1994, in Marseille, France addressing the issues of pathogenesis and therapy in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). It is remarkable in the rate of publication following such a conference and hence still remains quite current. As such, it is a text that will find a place in the libraries of clinicians interested in the treatment of ALS, clinician/scientists attempting to frame concepts of etiopathogenesis, and to basic scientists attempting to understand the clinical relevance of studying ALS.

The text, on the whole, is well-written, topical and adequately referenced. There are several chapters that are outstanding and present excellent reviews. The chapter by Munsat on trial designs is a good, balanced overview and presents a historical perspective of drug trials in ALS. This chapter should be read in the company of those by Brooks et al. and by Meisinger et al. on attempts at quantitation of disease progression and regional onset in ALS. The chapter by Pouget et al. on the diagnosis of ALS is perhaps the best to date that I have reviewed. My only concern is the inadequacy of the discussion on primary lateral sclerosis (PLS), and the omission of key references by Pringle et al. (*Brain*, 1992; *Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences*, 1990) and Hudson et al. (*Brain Research Bulletin*, 1993). These three references delineated the clinical, pathological, and diagnostic criteria for PLS, and yet are not mentioned at all in this chapter. Rowland's paper provides some useful insight into the diagnostic difficulties that arise in the finding of a paraproteinemia in a patient with motor neuron disease. My only concern with the chapter was a paragraph on page 97 on transgenic models of neurofilament expression. While this is included in a section on anti-neurofilament antibodies, it seemed out of place and was not brought into the relevance of the overall chapter. The chapter by Rothstein on the excitotoxic mechanisms of neuron death in ALS, and particularly the glutamate-induced neurotoxicity, is well-written, clear and concise.

These positive features are off-set by a number of minor annoyances within the text itself. The organization of the text is somewhat unusual. Clinically-relevant material is left to the latter half of the text. While useful for researchers this may not be so useful for the mainstream neurologist who wishes to pick up the text and have an initial overview of the diagnostic difficulties and the classification of ALS prior to reading about pathogenesis. The paraproteinemia and immune-based chapters are scattered in that three are grouped (Appel, Drachman and Jeagar) and then 3 chapters later appears the chapter of Rowland. While the chapter by Mitsumoto and Pioro discussing animal models spends considerable time discussing the Wobbler mouse, the editors have stated in the preface "the Wobbler model has been extensively investigated, but its relevance to ALS is a concern". Indeed, it is a useful model for understanding pathogenesis of motor neuron dysfunction, and one of the most useful models to date for therapeutic trials. It is disconcerting from my point of view to find that the aluminum neurotoxicity models are scarcely mentioned, and when discussed, inaccurately. As stated in the chapter, "chronic encephalopathic signs" were not described in the model and hence this section is inaccurate. Similarly, the equine model was

not all discussed. The chapter by Eisen discussing ALS as a multi-factorial disease is interesting, but the statement on clinical issues "that clinical or electromyographic fasciculation is considered diagnostic for ALS" is just simply not true. The author may have attempted to soften this by the following statement "that fasciculations occurring for the first time over the age of 45 of 50 may not be benign". Nonetheless, such an inaccuracy should have been caught by the editorial group. Finally, references are not consistently formatted within the text. For instance, the chapter by Mitsumoto and Piro lists references alphabetically, while the majority of other chapters list according to citation.

One last concern relates to the omission of discussions of neurofilament metabolism within this text. Although passing references are made to the transgenic models of neurofilament over-expression, such a chapter omission within the text is glaring.

Overall therefore, this is a good text, topical, with a few minor deficiencies described above. It will certainly be a useful reference and updates the previous text on Motor Neuron Diseases in the Advances in Neurology Series edited by Rowland.

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CONTINUOUS SPIKES AND WAVES DURING SLOW SLEEP, ELECTRICAL STATUS EPILEPTICUS DURING SLOW SLEEP, ACQUIRED EPILEPTIC APHASIA AND RELATED CONDITIONS. 1995. Edited by A. Beaumanoir, M. Bureau, T. Deonna, L. Mira, CA. Tassinari. Published by John Libbey & Company Limited. 260 pages. \$C77.00

Landau-Kleffner syndrome (LKS) has received a great deal of media attention as steroid treatment seemed to offer a "cure" for a variety of children with serious language disorders. This book summarizes a symposium in Venice in 1993 on LKS and related disorders. I approached the book hoping for some clarity; alas there is little.

The title is unfocused and so is the book. It is divided into 7 "Parts", each with several short chapters; however there are no subheadings to indicate the rationale for the parts. Some chapters are very difficult to read with phrases such as "extralinguistic sectorial neurophysiological destructing". One chapter has a single subheading of Introduction – the introduction is the entire chapter.

Part 1 consists of 2 chapters devoted to issues of language development. Basso clearly defines 3 ways of conceptualizing language development – language is a product of learning, lan-

guage is a product of intelligence (Piaget) and language is an innate faculty altered by experience (Chomsky).

Part 2 has five chapters that mostly focus definitions of Continuous Spikes and Waves in Slow Sleep (CSWS) and Epileptic Aphasia. The chapter by Deonna and Roulet "Acquired epileptic aphasia: definition of the syndrome and current problems" is excellent but the other chapters rely mostly on personal experience with a few PET scans or neuropsychology followups. At the end of the section, the reader is still very unclear about the basic syndrome definitions and Hirsch et al. conclude "the eponym, Landau-Kleffner syndrome should be extended to acquired deterioration of any higher cerebral function occurring in children displaying EEG paroxysmal abnormalities increased during sleep and epileptic seizures regressing over time." Do we even need the EEG abnormalities?

Part 3 is devoted to electrophysiologic studies. There is a review of the general issue of activation of epileptic discharge by sleep. Dr. Frank Morrell has a masterful chapter arguing that in the LKS with CSWS, the EEG discharge is a form of secondary bilateral synchrony and that the fundamental problem in LKS is a disturbance in the normal developmental pruning of excessive synapses. In another chapter, three patients with CSWS are described with brain mapping investigations suggesting a focal origin for their generalized EEG spike wave. A further chapter on evoked potentials suggests that LKS is a disorder of central sound processing while CSWS does not have this problem.

Part 4 has four chapters that appear to focus on the relationship between cognitive function and EEG discharge. Part 5 has two chapters that discuss a few cases and one chapter that critiques the EEG definition of CSWS (85 per cent of slow sleep occupied by spike and wave). Part 6 consists of three unrelated clinical discussions including one on methylphenidate for associated hyperactivity. In addition, there is a forty page chapter with one case report after another. These cases apparently were drawn from a series of forms filled out by symposium participants. It is unclear how many forms there were and from how many centres. The form is not offered and it is clear that much of the material was incomplete. Part 7 has six chapters that review the case material from the submitted forms.

This book will be of interest to a very limited audience. The potpourri approach will help an expert pediatric epileptologist know that these distressing syndromes are hard to define, have unclear pathophysiology and an inconsistent response to a variety of anecdotal treatments. We are a long way from understanding these poignant clinical problems.

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