

## **BOOKS RECEIVED**

**HANDBOOK OF EPILEPSY TREATMENT. THIRD EDITION.** 2010. By Simon Shorvon. Published by Wiley-Blackwell. 418 pages. C\$95 approx.

**NEUROMUSCULAR ASPECTS OF SPORT PERFORMANCE. VOLUME XVII OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SPORTS PERFORMANCE.** 2011. Edited by Paavo V. Komi. Published by Wiley-Blackwell. 307 pages. C\$190 approx.

**AGING AND AGE-RELATED DISORDERS. OXIDATIVE STRESS IN APPLIED BASIC RESEARCH AND CLINICAL PRACTICE.** 2010. Edited by Stephen Bondy, Kenneth Maiese. Published by Humana Press. 471 pages. C\$205 approx.

**WHY WE SEE WHAT WE DO REDUX. A WHOLLY EMPIRICAL THEORY OF VISION.** 2011. By Dale Purves, R. Beau Lotto. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 262 pages. C\$60 approx.

**COMPUTATIONAL MODELS OF CONDITIONING.** 2010. Edited by Nestor Schmajuk. Published by Cambridge University Press. 275 pages. C\$105 approx.

## **BOOKS REVIEWED**

**FOCAL PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHIES, FOURTH EDITION.** 2010. By John D. Stewart. Published by JBJ Publishing. 692 pages. C\$200 approx.

Rated ★★★★★

“Focal Peripheral Neuropathies” is a recently published and very well written textbook, whose title is self-explanatory, and which should be on the shelves of every neurologist, physiatrist or other specialist who sees patients with focal numbness or weakness, which in the end is most of us. It’s highly readable, helped immensely by the fact that it is organized in a logical and consistent fashion.

The initial chapters are devoted to the basics of the structure and anatomy of the peripheral nervous system, pathology of peripheral nerves, neurophysiology, and general principles of how to diagnose focal neuropathies. The information in these initial pages is, although not essential to the understanding of more clinically applicable material in subsequent chapters, nonetheless invaluable to understand what we see in the clinic and EMG lab in patients with focal neuropathies.

Subsequent chapters address specific peripheral nerve disorders and are organized neuroanatomically, including chapters on nerves arising from the cervical and lumbar spine, brachial and lumbosacral plexus, and chapters devoted to the individual major nerves in the arms and legs. Each is similarly organized, beginning with a clear and concise description of the clinically relevant neuroanatomy. The author also discusses frequent anatomic

variations that can produce clinical and electrophysiological confusion. This is followed by a discussion of possible etiologies and lesions of the individual peripheral nerves, organized logically and anatomically, beginning with lesions affecting the proximal portions of the nerve and moving towards the periphery. Easily digestible tables list the common causes for neuropathies at each of these locations. Dr. Stewart’s extensive clinical experience with disorders of the peripheral nervous system is readily apparent in the ensuing discussion on the clinical features, with many “pearls” about the clinical diagnosis of the various neuropathies, including a concise summary of the pertinent literature. This is followed by discussion of the ‘real world’ differential diagnosis, mirroring the clinical thinking applied when seeing patients with specific motor or sensory complaints. The value of the various diagnostic tools for each nerve and at each location is then discussed, with a concise and useful discussion of the electrophysiological studies. This part of the text does not provide a detailed description of the techniques involved, but provides insight into the specific techniques available, addressing both their potential values and shortfalls. This overview is aimed towards physicians who might order EMG studies or receive reports of such studies, but often provides very useful electrophysiological pearls which those of us who use this diagnostic tool in day-to-day practice will benefit from. Increasingly imaging, whether MRI or ultrasound, is of use in the diagnosis of focal peripheral nerve lesions. The book provides an excellent summary of where imaging is, or might not be, useful. The final parts summarize the practical management of these disorders, again organized into the management of lesions of clinically important branches of each of the major peripheral nerves.

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