Books Received

Atlas of Neonatal EEG. Third Edition. 2003. By Eli M. Mizrahi, Richard A. Hrachovy, Peter Kellaway. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 274 pages C$207.00 approx.

Community Rehabilitation in Neurology. 2003. By Michael P. Barnes, Harriet Radermacher. Published by Cambridge University Press. 256 pages C$104.00 approx.

Disorders of Neuronal Migration. 2003. Edited by Peter G. Barth. Published by Cambridge University Press. 205 pages C$85.00 approx.

Dystonia 4. Advances in Neurology Volume 94. 2003. Edited by Stanley Fahn, Mark Hallett, Mahlon R. DeLong. Published by Lipincott Williams & Wilkins. 312 pages C$220.00 approx.

EEG in Childhood Epilepsy. Initial Presentation and Long-term Follow-up. 2003. By Hermann Doose. Published by John Libbey Eurotext. 414 pages C$150.00 approx.

Epileptic Syndromes in Infancy, Childhood and Adolescence. Third Edition. 2002. Edited by Joseph Roger, Michelle Bureau, Charlotte Dravet, Pierre Genton, Carlo Tassinari, Peter Wolf. Published by John Libbey Eurotext. 544 pages C$189.00 approx.

Frontal Lobe Seizures and Epilepsies in Children. Mariani Foundation Paediatric Neurology: 11. 2003. Edited by A. Beaumanoir, F. Andermann, P. Chauvel, L. Mira, B. Zifkin. Published by John Libbey Eurotext. 230 pages C$102.00 approx.

Interactive Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences. 2004. By Pepper Williams. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 386 pages C$84.00 approx.

Intraoperative Imaging in Neurosurgery. MRI, CT, Ultrasound. 2003. Edited by R.L. Bernays, H.-G. Imhof, Y. Yonekawa. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 147 pages C$138.00 approx.

Keeping Mozart in Mind. Second Edition. 2004. By Gordon L. Shaw. Published by Elsevier. 411 pages C$52.00 approx.

Management of Pituitary Tumors. The Clinician's Practical Guide - Second Edition. 2003. Edited by Michael P. Powell, Stafford L. Lightman, Edward R. Laws, Jr. Published by Humana Press. 318 pages C$162.00 approx.

Neurological and Neurosurgical Critical Care. Fourth Edition. 2003. By Allan Ropper, Daryl Gress, Michael Diringer, Deborah Green, Stephan Mayer, Thomas Bleck. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 403 pages C$163.00 approx.

Neuropathology of Focal Epilepsies: An Atlas. 2003. By R. Lahl, R. Villagran, W. Texeira. Published by John Libbey Eurotext. 332 pages C$236.00 approx.

Neuroscience in Medicine. Second Edition. 2003. Edited by P. Michael Conn. Published by Humana Press. 723 pages C$175.00 approx.

Pain. Current Understanding, Emerging Therapies and Novel Approaches to Drug Discovery. 2003. Edited by Chas Bountra, Rajesh Munglani, William K. Schmidt. Published by Marcel Dekker. 968 pages C$302.00 approx.

Protein Structure and Function Primers in Biology. 2003. By Gregory A Petsko, Dagmar Ringe. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 195 pages C$66.00 approx.

Spinal Restabilization Procedures. 2002. Edited by Denis L. Kaech, J. Randy Jinkins. Published by Elsevier Science. 408 pages C$180.00 approx.

Standard Variants of the Skull and Brain Atlas for Neurosurgeons and Neuroradiologists. 2003. By Wolfgang Seeger. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 371 pages C$362.00 approx.

Textbook of Diabetic Neuropathy. 2003. By F. Arnold Gries, Norman E. Cameron. Phillip A. Low, Dan Ziegler. Published by Thieme. 394 pages C$155.00 approx.

The Life and Work of J.L.W. Thudichum 1829-1901. 2003. By Theodore L. Sourkes. Published by Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University. 95 pages C$25.00 approx.

Book Reviews

Color Atlas of Microneurosurgery of Acoustic Neurinomas. Endoscope-assisted Techniques, Neuronavigational Techniques, Radiosurgery. 2003. Edited by W.T. Koos, C. Matula and J. Lang. Published by Thieme Verlag, New York. 326 pages. C$303 approx.

Acoustic neurinomas are relatively common benign intracranial tumors, comprising about 8-10% of all intracranial tumors, with an annual incidence of 1/100,000 population. Most affected patients present with hearing loss or other vestibulocochlear nerve dysfunction, although more extensive and potentially life threatening neurological problems may be associated with tumors that grow to a large size. Unfortunately, the growth rate and natural history of acoustic neuromas varies tremendously and is unpredictable. This, coupled with the diverse management strategies, including various microsurgical and radiosurgical approaches as well as conservative observation, make management decisions complex for both the clinicians and patients.

There is clearly a trend in North America, and perhaps worldwide, towards favouring gamma knife radiosurgery for the

treatment of acoustic neuromas. Radiosurgery is effective in controlling the growth in most tumors, and avoiding procedure related cranial nerve injuries. Alternatively, excellent patient outcomes may be achieved with microsurgical resection, when performed by expert surgeons. In this text, neurosurgeons Wolfgang Koos and Christian Matula, together with anatomist Johannes Lang have provided a comprehensive review and guide to diagnosis and microsurgical resection of acoustic neuromas by the retrosigmoid-transmeatal approach. The authors have produced a high quality atlas that will be valued by neurosurgeons who treat these lesions. The text was completed after the death of the senior author, Professor Koos, and serves as a fitting honour to his contributions and expertise.

The atlas text is concise and well-written, generously illustrated with operative photographs, line drawings and coloured diagrams. The eleven chapters are well-organized, followed by an extensive bibliography and practical subject index. Following a brief introduction, Chapter 2 clearly depicts microsurgical anatomy of the cerebellopontine angle and associated structures, with a series of high quality photographs and complimentary labeled line drawings. Junior and expert surgeons alike will appreciate the logical sequence of images.

The next two chapters cover topics of diagnosis, decision-making algorithms, operative set-up, patient positioning, neuroanesthesia and intraoperative monitoring. The authors have a clearly stated preference in management of acoustic neuromas, a retrosigmoid transmeatal approach in the sitting position that is supported by their exemplary results summarized in Chapter 11.

Chapter 5 comprises the bulk of the text, where 64 individual cases illustrate surgical resection of acoustic neuromas ranging from small intracanalicular to expansive grade 4 tumors. The comprehensive collection of surgical cases is well-illustrated with intraoperative photographs, relevant captions and highly understandable line drawings. Surgeons will appreciate the quality of these illustrations, and the skillful surgical technique that is clearly depicted.

Chapters 6 and 7 similarly illustrate surgical resection of other cerebellopontine angle tumors involving trigeminal, facial and glossopharyngeal nerves as well as meningiomas, epidermoid tumors, choroids plexus papillomas and arachnoid cysts.

Chapters 8, 9 and 10 are brief and introduce the readers to 7th nerve reconstruction, intraoperative endoscopic assistance, and gamma knife radiosurgery.

This atlas is an excellent reference and learning aid for those operating in the cerebellopontine angle. The techniques illustrated exemplify the potential to achieve excellent patient outcomes with microsurgical resection of acoustic neuromas. The authors have admirably succeeded in producing an outstanding reference, and a truly worthwhile addition to individual and departmental neurosurgery libraries.

Olawale A.R. Sulaiman, Anthony M. Kaufmann
Winnipeg, Manitoba

HANDBOOK OF NEUROTOXICOLOGY, VOLUMES 1 AND 2. 2001 and 2002. Edited by Edward J. Massaro. Published by The Humana Press. 668 and 594 pages. C$270 and C$190 approx.

The "Handbook of Neurotoxicology" reviewed here is a two-volume work on a broad and rapidly evolving field of research. The book is reportedly aimed at researchers and students, but the title may seem interesting to the practicing clinician as well.

Volume one is divided into four sections comprising 28 chapters by a total of as much as 59 different authors, primarily pharmacologists, toxicologists and biochemists mainly from the United States, but from European countries, Australia and New Zealand as well.

This first volume covers the broad field of pharmacological effects of different neurotoxic agents from pesticides, metals and microbial-derived agents to neurotoxins originating from animals.

Throughout the different chapters, the authors tend to lay more emphasis on biochemical characteristics of the different neurotoxins than on the clinical symptoms resulting from an exposure. Regarding organophosphates, for example, a lot of information is provided on biochemical mechanisms of toxicity, including a perhaps extensively detailed account of current pharmacological research. In contrast to that, the clinical symptoms of an organophosphate intoxication are only rudimentarily described. Likewise, other chapters on snake-derived toxins or the effects of heavy metals on zinc-finger proteins remain on the mainly pharmacological level by giving detailed information on functional significance of structural deviations or binding topographies. An exception may be the interesting chapter by J.B. Harris on phospholipase A2 neurotoxins in snake venoms who succeeds in bridging the gap between toxicology and clinical neurology. As information concerning one specific neurotoxical agent may be spread among several chapters, to gather it in some cases requires time and thorough reading. The usefulness of this volume as a reference book for neurotoxins, therefore, may be limited.

Volume two, like volume one, is written by many different individual authors. It is divided into four sections of 21 chapters altogether. The first section concentrates on the biological effects of human-made toxins on the developing nervous system. It provides a detailed overview of the methodology of developmental neurotoxicology, describing behavioural assessment and other invasive and noninvasive techniques of identifying developmental CNS insult. In addition to that, it summarises the data of current developmental neurotoxicology studies in humans, as well as animal models.

The second section focuses on the neurotoxicity of drugs of abuse. It includes a detailed description of EEG alterations caused by cocaine, of molecular and cellular pathways of methamphetamine-induced neurotoxicity as well as a summary of the current state of research concerning cannaboid influence on brain reward substrates. While this second section again lays emphasis on basis natural science, the chapter on emerging drugs of abuse like ketamine or gamma-hydroxybutyrate contains valuable information for the clinician on the way these drugs are administered and on the clinical symptoms they induce.

Section three acknowledges the growing importance of structural and functional imaging techniques in neurological scientific research laying emphasis again on the neurotoxicity of drugs of abuse. It provides a good overview of the results of PET, SPECT, fMRI and magnetic resonance spectroscopy studies in investigating morphological and functional alterations in brain caused by drugs like ethanol, opioids or "ecstasy". Section four (again) describes neurobehavioural assessment techniques, showing a certain measure of overlap with the beginning of the first part of this volume.