

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-

sen illustrations, a few in colour. The author is careful to not intimidate the reader with too verbose a text or too complex a discussion of pathogenesis, yet introduces the reader to some basic concepts in neurophysiology and metabolic disease suitable for those to whom "neurology" invokes mystique, incomprehensible neuroanatomy, unpronounceable eponyms and the most somber prognosis. This book goes a long way in demystifying neurology to the first year paediatric resident if not to the practising paediatrician. Brevity and selectivity of topics are keys to its success.

The first chapter is a brief description of neurological symptoms and signs supplemented by a glossary of common clinical neurological terms. An explanation of the significance of findings pervades all other chapters as well and provides neither too little nor too much. A chapter on common neurdiagnostic procedures provides succinct and factual descriptions of various imaging and electrophysiological techniques, CSF interpretation, and special subtitles identifying paragraphs that explain the clinical applications of these tests.

The other 18 chapters are divided by clinical presentation rather than aetiology: paroxysmal non-epileptic; seizures; headaches, movement disorders; macrocephaly; hypotonia; sleep disorders in children; ataxia of acute onset; head injuries; neonatal neurology; assessment of school failure; and others.

I found only a very few minor errors, such as the misplaced apostrophe in "Gowers' sign" on page 8 and the misspelling of "Werdnig-Hoffmann" on page 97 but not on subsequent pages of the same chapter. The intentional brevity of the text precludes the expanded development of some complex themes so that one could always fault the exclusion of data, the incomplete development of topics and ambiguity as a result, but if the author had chosen thoroughness he would have failed to produce the type of book he so skillfully succeeded in writing. This book is not intended to compete with thorough and authoritative texts of paediatric neurology that often require two or three volumes. The only major flaw to which I would object is in the chapter on development in which the reader might be left with the impression that neuroblast migration is complete by five months gestation.

In sum, this is an excellent introductory textbook for medical students and residents in paediatrics in particular, and the author has artfully achieved an equilibrium between brevity and the provision of factually, clinically relevant information. The quality of the printing is good, the price is modest, and I highly recommend this book to directors of residency programmes and to practising paediatricians.

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SPINAL TUMORS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS. 1990. Edited by Ignacio Pascual-Castroviejo. Published by Raven Press. 314 pages. \$118 Cdn. approx.

"Spinal Tumors in Children and Adolescents" is the sixth volume in the Internal Review of Pediatric Neurology series sponsored by the International Child Neurology Association. This volume was edited and largely written (12 out of 16 chapters) by Ignacio Pascual-Castroviejo and serves to cover tumors

of the spinal cord and the spine. In addition, it provides chapters on vascular malformations, inflammatory processes and congenital abnormalities.

The first chapter discusses the epidemiology of spinal cord tumors in children and provides in repository form, information from previous large series. The discussion of the pathology of spinal cord tumors is based on a gross morphological classification, and is clear and well illustrated. The investigation of pediatric tumors is discussed in light of current technology. The traditional investigative procedures as well as ultrasound and magnetic resonance are covered. Unfortunately, the MRI illustrations come from first generation instruments and, therefore, suffer from a lack of resolution and clarity. No comment is made regarding the role of angiography for the investigation of spinal cord tumors, arteriovenous malformations or spine tumors.

The chapter describing intramedullary cord tumors reviews Epstein's experience using aggressive surgery for intramedullary tumors. This chapter provides a number of interesting facts regarding astrocytomas and ependymomas. Unfortunately, information regarding the natural history of spinal cord astrocytomas and follow-up experience is not provided. This chapter does not flow easily and is difficult to read.

The fifth chapter, entitled non-surgical management of spinal tumors, deals extensively with the results of radiotherapy as a supplement to, and or in lieu of, surgery for spinal tumors. Once again, it provides both an extensive review of the literature and a succinct interpretation of the current state of knowledge.

The remaining chapters are all written by the editor. They, therefore, provide a consistent approach to further discussion of both spinal cord and spine tumors, as well as other processes. These chapters provide a descriptive analysis of the literature available and as such provide a good starting point for topic review.

Congenital malformations and infective processes are discussed in this book. They add little to the volume.

This volume does not discuss ancillary neuroradiographic procedures (angiography and embolization). There is no significant discussion of post-operative spinal deformities.

The editor has provided a review volume discussing spinal cord and spine tumors, which in itself, will be a valuable edition to libraries as it provides a focal point to past literature.

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CLARENCE HINCKS, MENTAL HEALTH CRUSADER. 1989. By Charles G. Roland. Published by Hannah Institute & Dundurn Press. 128 pages. \$17.95 Cdn.

We owe, to Dr. Charles Roland, an entertaining and useful biography of a pioneer in the area of the distribution of care to psychiatric patients and mentally retarded individuals. Although this is not the history of the Canadian Mental Health Association – previously the Canadian Committee for Mental Hygiene – his creative activity is best understood by the development of this organization. Clarence Hincks received his inspiration from Clifford Beer, whom he met while visiting New York City and the National Committee of Mental Hygiene. After spending part of an evening and night reading, "A Mind That Found Itself", he met Beers and was so inspired by the man that,