

Books Received

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIOLOGY OF VISION. 1996. By James T. Mcllwain. Published by Cambridge University Press. 222 pages. \$C33.00.

APOPTOSIS TECHNIQUES AND PROTOCOLS. 1997. Edited by Judes Poirier. Published by Humana Press. 304 pages. \$C103.00.

COCHLEAR IMPLANT AND RELATED SCIENCES UPDATE. VOL. 52. ADVANCES IN OTO-RHINO-LARYNOGOGY. 1996. Edited by I. Honjo, H. Takahashi. Published by S. Karger, A.G. Basel. 340 pages. \$C281.00.

DEMENTIA WITH LEWY BODIES. 1996. Edited by Robert Perry, Ian McKeith, and Elaine Perry. Published by Cambridge University Press. 510 pages. \$C156.00.

ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF EPILEPSY MANAGEMENT. 1996. Edited by C.H. Pachlatko, R.G. Beran. Published by John Libbey & Company Limited. 112 pages. \$C48.00.

EYELID MYOCLONIA WITH ABSENCES. 1996. Edited by John S. Duncan, C.P. Panayiotopoulos. Published by John Libbey & Company Limited. 122 pages. \$C43.00.

INFECTIONS OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM, SECOND EDITION. 1997. Edited by W. Michael Scheld, Richard J. Whitley, David T. Durack. Published by Kuououbcitt-Raven. 1064 pages. \$C267.00.

MINIMALLY INVASIVE THERAPY OF THE BRAIN. 1996. Edited by Antonio A.F. De Salles, Robert B. Lufkin. Published by Thieme Publishers. 292 pages. \$C246.00.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS. 1996. Edited by Jurg Kesselring. Published by Cambridge University Press. 214 pages. \$C78.00.

NEUROINFORMATICS. 1997. Edited by Stephen H. Koslow, Michael F. Huerta. Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Inc., Publishers. 376 pages. \$C104.00.

NEUROSCIENCE. 1997. Edited by D. Purves, G.J. Augustine, D. Fitzpatrick, L.C. Katz, A.-S. LaMantia, J.O. McNamara. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 562 pages. \$C69.00.

NEUROSURGERY BOARD REVIEW. 1997. Edited by Cargill H. Alleyne, D.L. Barrown, S.C. Tindall, N.M. Oyesiku, J.M. Washington, S.B. Hunter, et al. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers Inc. 253 pages.

NEUROSURGICAL OPERATIVE ATLAS, VOLUME 4. 1995. Edited by Setti S. Rengachary, Robert H. Wilkins. Published by The American Association of Neurological Surgeons. 390 pages.

POST-THERAPEUTIC NEURODIAGNOSTIC IMAGING. 1997. Edited by J. Randy Jinkins. Published by Lippincott-Raven. 309 pages. \$C163.00.

PRESCRIPTION FOR WEALTH. 1997. By Dr. Terry Curran. Published by Crowne Rock. 283 pages. \$C24.00.

PRINCIPLES OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY. 1996. By Robert S. Feldman, Jerrold S. Meyer and Linda F. Quenzer. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 909 pages. \$C91.00.

THE RESIDENT'S NEUROLOGY BOOK. 1997. By Orrin Devinsky, Edward Feldmann, Herman J. Weinreb, Janet L. Wilterdink. Published by F.A. Davis Company. 288 pages. \$C33.00.

VISUAL STRESS. OXFORD PSYCHOLOGY. SERIES 24. 1995. Edited by Arnold J. Wilkins. Published by Oxford University Press – Canada. 194 pages. \$C108.00.

Book Reviews

BALANCE DISORDERS: A CASE – STUDY APPROACH. 1996. By Joseph M. Furman, Steven P. Cass. Published by F.A. Davis & Company. 357 pages. \$C129.00

The authors of this book have done an excellent job of using a case study approach to examine and explain disorders of balance. They have not confined themselves just to peripheral disorders but have also looked at central causes as well as systemic causes of balance dysfunction.

The book is broken down into four main sections. The first part deals in a relatively superficial manner with vestibular anatomy and testing of the auditory system. Part two deals with some important principles in understanding patients with vestibular disorders whether it be peripheral or central. They emphasize the importance of the history and physical examination as well as being able to distinguish between central and peripheral causes of vestibular dysfunction. Chapters are also devoted to important testing of the vestibular system including electronystagmography, rotational testing, posturography and audiometry indicating the benefits and limitations of these tests.

In parts three and four they attempt to go through fairly common causes of dizziness, particularly good were the chapters on benign positional vertigo, cervical vertigo, migraine related dizziness and anxiety disorders causing balance problems.

The fourth part of the book attempts to deal with some of the more complex disorders and this may be one of the limitations of the book in that it is a relatively simple and straight forward approach to these disorders and does not have an exhaustive discussion of the pathophysiology and treatment in each of the individual case vignettes.

That aside I still found this to be a thoroughly readable book. It was full of very interesting clinical pearls from two physicians who obviously have a tremendous interest and expertise in vestibular disorders. This book would be extremely useful to medical students in an Undergraduate Medical training program. It may also be of some benefit to Residents in Neurology and Otolaryngology during their general training programs. It is not meant to supplant the major text books on vestibular disorders but is a useful clinical introduction to these disorders. I would strongly recommend it to physicians involved in Medical

Education in order to encourage undergraduate medical students to read this book and so gain a better understanding of how central, peripheral and systemic causes of dizziness can be assessed, diagnosed and treated.

In summary I found this book enjoyable to read and would recommend it for anyone with an interest in learning more about balance disorders.

*Toni R. Winder,
Lethbridge, Alberta*

A GUIDE TO ADULT NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS. FIRST EDITION. 1996. By Anthony Y. Stringer. 528 pages. \$C91.00

The author who is an Associate Professor of Rehabilitation at Emory University School of Medicine set a goal to operationally define in an atheoretical manner the complexity of behavioural disturbances seen after brain diseases and disorders. The introductory chapter offers a rationale for a diagnostic approach, and guidelines to the organization of the remaining 18 chapters. Each chapter begins with descriptive classifications for related neuropsychological disorders including alternative nomenclatures. Thereafter follows lists of clinical indicators, associated features, factors to rule out, and lesion locations. Possible etiologies are discussed, along side the disabling consequences from a patient's perspective, some assessment instruments, and case illustrations. Rapid search strategies are greatly aided by three indices (anatomical, etiological, and behavioural), in addition to the table of contents.

Cognitive, emotional, and behavioural manifestations of neurological diseases in the brain are grouped into disorders of alertness, disorders of concentration, stimulus neglect, stimulus imperception, spatial imperception, disorders of visual-motor integration, disorders of stimulus localization, disorders of movement, disorders of oral language, disorders of written language, disorders of emotional communication, calculation disorders, memory disorders, illusions and hallucinations, neuropsychological disorders of emotion, ideation, and behaviour and intellectual decline.

Readers with little background in clinical neuropsychology will find this cookbook approach a quick and easy way to gain familiarity with this inexhaustible and sometimes bewildering field of practice. Though not intended for the novice, the latter have the most to gain from such a well organized presentation so concisely described. Advantageous is the tables and conversions of neuropsychological nomenclature into DSM-III-R, DSM-IV and ICD-9-CM codings. Others who have spent years in graduate and post graduate training might find the material too superficial and at the same time idiosyncratically precise.

One highlight of the book was the author's insights relating diagnosis with its disabling consequences; links that often go overlooked but greatly impact on leisure, social and occupational roles. These issues bear most directly upon service delivery within forensic and insurance contexts. Another very positive feature of the diagnostic exercise was the systematic, point by point guidelines that might rule out non-organic diagnoses before concluding that the deficits represent brain damage. If this section alone were heeded by diagnosticians, credibility of the field would be enhanced 100 fold.

This compendium of over 140 neuropsychological disorders was

never intended to be read from cover to cover, the way a conscientious reviewer might. Indeed, the material contained therein might better be adapted into software programs accessible via computers.

*Jeannette McGlone,
Halifax, Nova Scotia*

IMAGING OF THE PEDIATRIC HEAD, NECK, AND SPINE. FIRST EDITION. 1996. By or Edited by Mauricio Castillo and Suresh K. Mukherji. Published by Lippincott-Raven, Philadelphia. 768 pages. \$C223.00

This book, *Imaging of the Pediatric, Head, and Spine* by Castillo and Mukherji is an addition to a number of noteworthy textbooks on Pediatric Neuroradiology by Barkovich, Wolpert and Barnes, and those sections of books of neuroradiology in general by Osborn and pediatric radiology in general by Kirks that deal with pediatric neuroradiology, to name a few. This book is different in that it adds a considerable degree of clinical detail to the many conditions described and a significant section on head and neck imaging in children, a difficult and less well covered subject. It also covers the full span of pediatric neuroradiology of the head and spine and their contents as well, but in a different format. The authors organize the individual disease entities in a case report format rather than in a more comprehensive cohesive chapter style. This has both its attractions and its detractions. Furthermore, and deliberately so, the authors have elected to provide few references.

I enjoyed reading the book from cover to cover. However it does have certain distractions and deficiencies which need to be mentioned. There is an enormous waste of space. Blank space abounds. By conservative estimate, fully one-quarter of the book cumulatively consists of wasted pages. For example, one page contains only a single reference on it, and is otherwise blank. This space could have been filled with useful illustrations, not adding to the price substantially as no further pages would be needed, or similarly careful editing and publishing could have cut down the volume size and therefore the price. The vast majority of illustrations are appropriate but some of them quaintly chosen for their "show-and-tell" benefit rather than their instructive usefulness. A marvelous opportunity has been missed to provide a galaxy of images which would have been extraordinarily beneficial to the reader. This deficiency may be due to lack of sufficient material or by choice. It leaves one with a paradoxical sense of frustration within the enjoyment of reading. Furthermore the choice of references sometimes appear rather arbitrary and often just too minimal for the interested reader. Four or five are most useful but a single inappropriate choice seems strange. There are three references on the rare syndrome of Kallmann and only two on primitive neuroectodermal tumours, one of which is most inappropriate!

The chapter on intracranial neoplasms is good, but each such broad topic lacks at least an introductory short chapter on how to differentiate between lesions such as within neoplasms or between them and other lesions, and their salient unique or common features. Even a table or two would be appropriate, a strategy used by authors in more rare conditions however. Parenthetically, when used these tables are most useful. A major