

## Book Reviews

**CLINICAL NEUROLOGY.** Edited by Alexandre B. Todorov. Published by Thieme-Stratton, Inc., New York. 358 pages. \$31.18 Cdn.

This book is intended to be a resident's guide. Written at a relatively elementary level, this relatively short multi-author book emphasizes practical patient management and therapy while at the same time supplying a reasonable amount of pathophysiological background material.

The organization of this book is somewhat unusual. There are conventional chapters on cerebrovascular diseases and central nervous system infections, but these are interspersed with some unusual chapters on the neurology of pregnancy, child neurology, and even a composite chapter entitled "Entrapment Neuropathies, Low Back Pain and Neck Pain". However, the table of contents is clear and most material can be easily found. The book does not have an index, and this is a liability.

At times, the book is too brief. For example, the dose of phenytoin for status epilepticus is given as "for the average adult, 1000 mg". For such a critical situation, a recommended dose in mg/kg body weight would be more precise and not leave the resident guessing.

Also, under the therapy of status epilepticus, the statement is made that parenteral phenobarbital is "half as strong milligram per milligram as the oral dose". The basis for this statement is not clear to me.

The book does contain a few contradictions. For example, it is stated, I believe correctly, that "primary muscle disease generally is . . . unassociated with . . . reflex abnormalities" yet in a pretest question, in answer to the question as to what anterior horn cell diseases and myopathies have in common, the correct answer is said to be "weak or absent reflexes".

The book contains extensive self-assessment tests which in fact constitute 138 of its 358 pages. These are an interesting feature of the book, and references are given for many of the questions. These self-assessment tests should assist the reader in deciding if mastery of the material in the text has been achieved.

In summary, this book offers a short but reasonably balanced practical approach to clinical neurology coupled with extensive self-assessment tests. The various chapters of this multi-author text are of uneven quality. Although not a definitive textbook of neurology, residents and other junior house staff may find it useful.

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**LOCALIZATION IN NEUROPSYCHOLOGY.** First Edition. Edited by Andrew Kertesz. Published by Academic Press. 527 pages. \$66.25 Cdn.

In the words of its editor, the authors of this volume "rise to meet the challenge of integrating function with structure . . . in the central nervous system". A difficult task indeed, and one

which researchers have in truth only begun. This interesting book reviews some of the more recent additions to our knowledge, and in so doing provides encouragement that progress indeed has been made, and offers optimism that the future will hold much more.

The initial chapter by Kertesz provides an able discussion of some theoretical issues which must be faced in research in localization, and a number of warnings which are reinforced in reading the remaining chapters. The next five chapters review five methods for studying human brain function: anatomical analysis, CT scan, positron emission tomography, regional cerebral blood flow, and electrical stimulation of the exposed cortex during surgery. The chapter on anatomical analysis by Galaburda and Mesulam provides detailed instructions on the procedures to be followed for a variety of analyses. The other four chapters review not only techniques but some of the results of their application.

The majority of the book is devoted to examining the relationship between various behavioural deficits and, the localization of the lesions associated with them. Many of the chapters, including some of the most convincing ones, deal with deficits in language functions. Taken together, they present a picture of relatively discrete cortical zones subserving language functions which, considering the several authors, is surprisingly consistent. Other chapters deal with a variety of additional topics, including an interesting presentation of the localization of apraxia-producing lesions by Heilman, Rothi, and Kertesz and a forceful presentation on the Gertsman syndrome and its relationship to left-parietal lesions by Strub and Geschwind.

The final chapter is an overview by Kertesz in which he comments on the other chapters. Despite his diplomacy as editor of the book, his comments are critical and useful to the reader unfamiliar with particular areas.

As with any multi-authored book, some of the chapters are weaker than others. In particular, the chapter on the frontal lobes by Stuss and Benson provides little insight into structural/functional relations within the frontal lobes. This is in no small part because of their decision to compare epileptic patients with unilateral frontal lobectomies to schizophrenic patients with bilateral frontal leucotomies.

I enjoyed reading this book, and would recommend it to clinicians or theoreticians with an interest in relations between function and structure in the brain. It is not an introductory book, but rather is intended for those with some prior knowledge or neuropsychology.

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**NEUROLOGIA INFANTIL.** By Ignacio Pascual-Castroviejo, M.D. Editorial Científico-Médica, Barcelona, Spain. 2 vols. 1612 pages. Price apx. Cdn. \$100 (copies may be ordered directly from author: Orense 14, 10°E, Madrid, 20, Spain)

This comprehensive two-volume textbook of pediatric neurology is the first such work in the Spanish language, written