

Basal Ganglia and Thalamus in Health and Movement Disorders is written with a uniformly high quality. It is readable, current and the work presented is of a high standard. Although proceedings of consensus meetings and gatherings of "experts" have earned a dubious reputation among practising clinicians, meetings such as this international workshop offer a rare opportunity for leading lights in a field to share their current research, to form alliances across borders and to stimulate new arenas of thought. In this respect, these proceedings offer the practising neurologist, neurosurgeon and neurophysiologist a glimpse at the state of the basal ganglia and demonstration of how far our understanding has evolved over the past 10 years as a result of clinical imperatives.

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NEUROLOGY AND MEDICINE. 1999. Edited RAC Hughes, GD Perkin. Published by BMJ Books. 415 pages. C\$66.15 approx.

This volume contains a collection of essays which have appeared in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry on a variety of aspects of medical neurology. The contributors are an outstanding group of experts in the field and include P.K. Thomas on diabetes in the nervous system, Michael Aminoff on chorea and dystonia and Patricia Moore on the neurology of vasculitides. There are chapters on the neurology of the respiratory, renal, hepatic and dermatological systems.

The contributors are international and include experts from the United Kingdom, the United States and from Australia. It is aptly stated in the foreword that it is not intended to be encyclopaedic but the volume is easy to read, and as a quick reference for the neurologist who needs to refresh his memory on the various aspects of medical neurology, it is reasonable value. There are areas which one might have expected to have been covered in such a volume, notably metabolic encephalopathies. However, this useful volume thoughtfully covers the chosen selected topics. It was published in 1999 so parts of it are somewhat out of date, such as the chapter on stroke but there are still good general principles to be found in the volume. This would be a useful addition to the shelves of the busy internist or the neurological consultant.

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HANDBOOK OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS. Third Edition. 2001. Edited by Stuart D. Cook. Published by Marcel Dekker, Inc. 687 pages. C\$292.50 approx.

This third edition of this text expands upon the recent developments in the understanding and treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS). Topic covered include the epidemiology, genetics, the putative pathogenesis, to the clinical presentations and current diagnostic tools. Current options for treatment are discussed, ranging from symptomatic approaches to disease modifying agents to ongoing potential therapeutic targets. The book is divided into three main sections that include the etiopathogenesis, the clinical and pathological changes and the therapeutic considerations.

The chapters are written by different authors, who are known to be experts in the field of MS. It is well referenced, with a varying

depth of coverage of a topic depending on the different authors. Overall, the discussions are generally abbreviated and concise. More detailed discussions are found in the basic science chapters discussing the auto-immune hypothesis and animal models. The text does provide a good summary of the epidemiological history and update as to the different diagnostic tools including the MRI. The results of the clinical trials in the treatment of relapsing-remitting disease are thoroughly discussed, but the biases of the different authors are readily apparent (such as the interferon dosage controversy), especially in the chapters discussing the newer disease modifying agents. Sections on the cognitive impairment and newer MRI techniques are notably included in this text. Inevitably, other topical highlights (such as the McDonald criteria for MS) or the more recent evidence and advances in different treatment issues over the past year are not presented, reflecting the rapidly evolving pace of this field. However, future experimental therapies are included at the latter chapters of the book, discussing the rationale and the empirical results from preliminary data thus far.

Overall, this text is a good up-to-date reference for clinicians, residents and other health care professionals, who are interested or involved in the medical management of patients with MS. It is well written, concise, with good references. The text includes black and white photomicrographs and other graphics including tables, graphs and illustrations that are well laid out. There is a tendency to have some repetition of topics as the different chapters are written by different authors discussing overlapping areas, but this does not deter from the overall quality and usefulness of this text.

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MANAGEMENT OF DEMENTIA. 2001. Edited by Simon Lovestone, Serge Gauthier. Published by Martin Dunitz. 168 pages. C\$55.70 approx.

This is an excellent pocket reference for those who wish to treat Alzheimer's disease. Lovestone and Gauthier are leading authorities in the field, one a psychiatrist, the other a neurologist, and both have had biochemistry background which is a good credential for expertise with pharmacological agents. The management of Alzheimer's disease has become an important issue not only for psychiatrists and neurologists, but geriatricians, general practitioners, and general internists because the disease is so prevalent and now we have fairly effective therapies. Management, of course, includes not only treatment but also diagnosis and differential diagnosis, and this little book deals with these issues in a compact yet comprehensive manner.

Behavioural and sleep disturbance in psychiatric symptoms in Alzheimer's disease are given specific treatment. Biomarkers, genetic testing, and treatment with cholinesterase inhibitors and disease modification agents are well covered. There is also a chapter on long-term care for the patient with dementia and at the end a special supplementary chapter on assessment scales including MMSE, MDS, ADAS-Cog, clock drawing, Behav-AD, Severe Impairment Battery (SIB), NPI, Cornell Scale for Depression, IDDD, the Bristol ADL, the GDS, FAST, CDR, the Burden Interview, and finally an appendix of screening, assessment and management algorithms. The book is well-indexed, has ample references, and recommended reading lists.