

BOOKS RECEIVED

MONOGRAPHS IN HUMAN GENETICS. NEUROFIBROMATOSIS. VOLUME 16. 2008. Edited by Dieter Kaufmann. Published by Karger. 192 pages. C\$190 approx.

PRACTICAL CSF CYTOLOGY (CD-ROM). AN INTERACTIVE TRAINING COURSE FOR NEUROLOGISTS, AND LABORATORY PHYSICIANS. 2008. By Harold Kluge, Stefan Isenmann, Hans-Juergen Kuehn, Martin M. Kluska, Valentin Wiczorek, Otto W. Witte. Published by Thieme. CD-ROM. C\$50 approx.

OBESITY. 2008. Edited by Elliott M. Blass. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 471 pages. C\$55 approx.

MICRONEUROSURGERY (DVD). ANEURYSMS - ARTERIOVENOUS MALFORMATIONS. 2008. By M.G. Yasargil. Published by Thieme. DVD. C\$250 approx.

STAHL'S ESSENTIAL PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY. NEUROSCIENTIFIC BASIS AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS. 2008. By Stephen M. Stahl. Published by Cambridge University Press. 1117 pages. C\$85 approx.

THROMBUS AND STROKE. 2008. Edited by Ajay K. Wakhloo, Matthew J. Gounis, Baruch B. Lieber, Robert A. Mericle, Italo Linfante. Published by Informa Healthcare U.S.A. Inc. 213 pages. C\$150 approx.

CHANGING ASPECTS IN STROKE SURGERY: ANEURYSMS, DISSECTIONS, MOYAMOYA ANGIOPATHY AND EC-IC BYPASS. 2008. Edited by Yasuhiro Yonekawa, Tetsuya Tsukahara, Anton Valavanis, Nadia Khan. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 149 pages. C\$219 approx.

CEREBRAL VASOSPASM. NEW STRATEGIES IN RESEARCH AND TREATMENT. 2008. Edited by Talat Kiris, John H. Zhang. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 463 pages. C\$290 approx.

GATING IN CEREBRAL NETWORKS. 2007. By Mircea Steriade, Denis Paré. Published by Cambridge University Press. 331 pages. C\$185 approx.

TOPICS IN INTEGRATIVE NEUROSCIENCE. FROM CELLS TO COGNITION. 2008. Edited by James R. Pomerantz. Published by Cambridge University Press. 427 pages. C\$140 approx.

BOOKS REVIEWED

NEUROSURGICAL EMERGENCIES. SECOND EDITION. 2008. By Christopher M. Loftus. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers. 408 pages. Price C\$120.

The first edition of this book was published in two volumes in 1994 by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, who have since negotiated a new publications partnership with Thieme. Dr. Christopher Loftus edited both editions. According to the preface his team has "hearkened to the critiques of the first edition, considered the previous manuscripts carefully, and revised, replaced and expanded as we thought best, to bring forth a truly modern and updated volume". I agree that the authors have achieved this.

The text consists of 31 chapters, organized into four sections: intracranial pathology, spinal pathology, peripheral nerve pathology and pediatric neurosurgical issues. Some of the new topics in this edition include the assessment of acute loss of consciousness, athletic injuries and their differential diagnosis, pediatric spinal cord injuries, and two chapters summarizing the published guidelines for the treatment of brain and spine injuries. The text is generally well organized and succinct.

The main problem with the subject of "neurosurgical emergencies" was most eloquently stated by the late Dr. William F. Collins in the preface of both editions: "While it is clear that there are acute medical situations that require emergency neurosurgical

care, a considerable portion of the development of neurosurgery has been due to the effort to identify, prevent, and/or control what can be considered in the broadest sense a potential, developing, or actual neurosurgical emergency." In other words, much of the pathology encountered in neurosurgery can be considered, on some level, at least urgency if not emergency. Thus the editor is faced with the challenge of assembling topics that cover many acute situations, but the text can never be broad enough to deal with all neurosurgical emergencies, as it would end up looking much like a comprehensive treatise of the specialty.

This is a great book for a medical student or junior neurosurgical resident. For the practicing neurosurgeon, it is a pleasant book to read with occasional gems of information or summaries. However, much of this material is nicely summarized within comprehensive neurosurgical texts. This book could be used more effectively in an emergency setting if the text was edited further such that it could be offered in a handbook or an electronic format.

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