

disorders as mononeuropathies, multiple mononeuropathies, or polyneuropathies and their electrophysiologic designation as predominantly axonal or demyelinating. This is a helpful guide even though it does not incorporate further subclassification by predominant clinical pattern that appears to relate to nerve fiber type. The usefulness of this approach might also have been strengthened by the inclusion of specific items of differential diagnosis. But these are suggestions for future editions of the book rather than major criticisms!

Other chapters, written by eighteen contributors recognized for their particular expertise, deal succinctly with the main categories of peripheral nerve disease. The chapters dealing with the management of Guillain-Barré syndrome, the classification and characteristics of the inherited neuropathies, and the pathophysiology of the neuropathies due to nerve compression and entrapment are particularly illuminating.

The concluding chapters on peripheral neuropathies in India, Japan and Africa are an additional commendable feature of this book. Not only will these chapters serve to acquaint European and North American neurologists with the fascinating spectrum of peripheral neuropathies encountered by colleagues in other parts of the world, they will also form a useful framework for appreciating the diagnostic possibilities for neuropathies among travellers to and from these once-distant lands.

The thirteen chapters of *Peripheral Nerve Disorders* represent appropriately balanced reviews that combine the essential facts about particular neuropathies with recently-acquired knowledge concerning pathogenesis and management. Although multi-authored, the chapters are well-organized and readable with helpful illustrations and references that appear to be current and complete. The absence of any detailed consideration of disorders of the major plexuses and proximal nerves and the value of computerized tomography in their assessment appears to be the only significant omission.

At a time when publications on specific categories of neurologic disease are tending to become encyclopedic, it is a joy to have available a book such as *Peripheral Nerve Disorders* that covers the topic so effectively and efficiently. It can be recommended enthusiastically for students, residents and practitioners who see patients with diseases of the peripheral nervous system. One can only hope that, in the tradition of *Modern Trends in Neurology*, subsequent editions will be published to permit readers to keep abreast with this advancing field.

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A GUIDE TO NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROSURGICAL NURSING. 1983. By Mariah Snyder. Published by John Wiley & Sons. 613 pages.

This textbook is divided into two parts. In the first part, the author presents an overview of neurological and neurosurgical nursing and discusses the nursing process. She also includes basic anatomy and physiology, common diagnostic tests and surgical procedures, and frequently used medications. She stresses that this part is background and a reference point for the content found in part II. She clearly states that it is her assumption the reader will have already mastered basic theory and that the book is primarily written for nurses practicing in the field of neurological and neurosurgical nursing.

In part II, the author focuses on specific nursing diagnoses that are common to patients with neurological and neurosurgical conditions. The nursing diagnoses were chosen from the National

Conferences on the Classification on Nursing Diagnosis. Each chapter provides an overview of the nursing diagnosis with definitions, characteristics, a framework for evaluation, related anatomy and physiology, and related theories and research. This is then followed by conditions (disorders) for which the nursing diagnosis is frequently made and, in addition, there is a discussion of these conditions with definitions, assessment and diagnostic studies, medical and surgical treatment, and related pharmacology. Nursing care is presented in light of the nursing process which consists of assessment, planning, interventions and evaluation. The inclusion of suggested areas for nursing research is a special feature of this book.

Part I of this book was found to be superfluous. The author claims to cater to the nurse who already has background in neurological and neurosurgical nursing, and yet, she spends time going over very elementary anatomy, physiology, diagnostic studies and pharmacology. These topics are sufficiently covered in part II. Also in part I, the author discusses the nursing process and gives us a 'crash' course in nursing issues. The nursing process is curriculum in every nursing school and is not necessary in this text. It is important to keep in mind that nursing issues outdate rapidly and should not be part of a specialty textbook.

Nursing diagnosis is used as the organizational basis for part II. In this respect, this book is very unique and innovative. This format eliminates the repetition encountered in disease-oriented formats and encourages the practitioner to use nursing diagnosis in planning care for neurological and neurosurgical patients. The use of the nursing process eases the transfer of knowledge to practice. As well, the inclusion of suggested areas for nursing research is definitely stimulating. The practicing neurological and neurosurgical nurse would certainly find part II of this text to be a valuable resource.

The author ends this publication with a chapter on "Neurological Nursing Tomorrow". This topic is mentioned very briefly with respect to the breakpoints affecting the specialty while the remainder of the chapter is dedicated to future nursing issues in general. Again, a topic of this sort dates rapidly. It should be included in a journal article and not a textbook. This chapter could have been more effective had the author concentrated solely on neurological nursing of tomorrow.

Overall, this textbook might have been better using only part II along with a good introduction to neuronursing as a specialty and a thorough discussion of the assessment tools used. Part II is the only section worthwhile reading for the nurse practicing in the field of neurological and neurosurgical nursing.

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HANDBOOK OF SHOCK AND TRAUMA. Volume 1: Basic Science. Edited by Burton M. Altura, Allan M. Lefer and William Schumer. Published by Raven Press, Medical and Scientific Publishers. 484 pages. \$58.00 Cdn.

Man in modern society has had to pay dearly for his conveniences. The advent of the automobile and motorcycle on high speed highways have led to the frequent admission to hospital of patients with multiple trauma including severe head injuries. The care of these patients in turn has led to the development of multidisciplinary Intensive Care Units as well as the inevitable volumes of literature both in the basic science and in the therapeutic realm of multiple trauma. Most recent textbooks that address the problems in the Intensive Care Unit are multidisciplinary and, therefore, necessarily cannot be