

Comprehensive sections on MG, ALS, and several autoimmune neuropathies will no doubt be of substantial utility to the practicing neurologist. These chapters included useful lists of diagnostic criteria and classification data along with concise management recommendations.

The selective nature of the topics chosen is recognized by the authors but some of this selectivity is striking. For example, there is a chapter on Acute Relapses of MS but there is no chapter on disease remitting therapy (DRT). Since there are also chapters on imaging in MS and use of antibody measurements in MS, the absence of a review on DRT seemed perplexing. Individual chapters are dedicated to Brain Metastases and Paraneoplastic syndromes but none to Primary Brain Tumors. Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophies were reviewed but Inflammatory Myopathies were not.

A short chapter on nystagmus and oscillopsia was surprisingly included in the book. The discussion on Seesaw Nystagmus included a recommendation box stating....“alcohol had a beneficial effect in two patients”. A very short section on paroxysmal vestibular disorders pointed out that MRI may show compression of the VII nerve, but did not mention anything about the far more common Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo.

Several chapters on various sleep disorders including sleep disorders in neurological disease, narcolepsy and RLS provide useful reviews.

The quality of the material and the expert considerations given in this handbook are without reproach. This is indeed a tremendous body of work that will provide a useful benchmark for the standard of neurological care for many disorders.

This is a source of reference that effectively compiles the best available evidence. For some clinical problems, particularly complex problems, the reader will have difficulty translating the summary of the evidence into a practical approach to the management of the individual patient. In addition, the inevitable conclusions in such a review that there is insufficient evidence to recommend a specific treatment often leaves one dangling and readers will need to constantly be aware that this does not mean that a treatment should not be given to an individual patient.

The selective nature of the chapters ranging from in-depth analysis of highly focused topics to the omission of broad topics of interest will very much limit the value of this first edition as an item to keep on the book shelf of the typical practitioner of neurology. The excess of typographical errors was distracting. The editors recognize this work is “only the end of the beginning” and indeed this is an excellent work in progress.

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THE BANANA LADY AND OTHER STORIES OF CURIOUS BEHAVIOUR AND SPEECH. 2007. By Andrew Kertesz. Published by Trafford Publishing. 237 pages. Price C\$23.

Dr. Andrew Kertesz has written a fascinating new paperback monograph, *The Banana Lady and Other Stories of Curious*

Behavior and Speech.. This is a short but highly relevant monograph on the clinical presentation, phenomenology and ongoing course of patients suffering from frontotemporal dementia and associated disorders. It focuses on multiple audiences -- residents, clinicians, nurses and caregivers and the lay public. The language is straightforward and all clinical terms are carefully explained.

Frontotemporal dementia is probably the most catastrophic of the neurodegenerative diseases. The progressive dissolution of personality coupled with the, at times curious, but often disruptive behavioral disturbances, create social and interpersonal chaos which can continue for years leading to eventual disintegration of families and institutionalization.

The initial diagnosis is often not straightforward. As chronicled in the book, the diagnosis is rarely made by the first clinician who sees the patient. This is in large part because behavioral symptoms at the onset of disease are not easily characterized and are difficult to objectify and quantitate. There is not a simple MMSE for behavioral disturbances. Through the use of 19 case studies Kertesz develops a clear picture of the various clinical behavioral phenomena and gives vivid examples. Kertesz provides many clinical pearls. For example, beware of the patient who has a change in personality who develops food fads or gluttony. The phenomenology is then explained biologically through interesting historical anecdotes ranging from the original phenomenology of the Kluver Bucy Syndrome to more recent work suggesting that food fads indicate more left temporal pathology while gluttony is right temporal in origin. Many behaviors are described including utilization behavior, obsessive compulsive behavior, inappropriate jocularity, hypersexuality, senile squalor and others. Kertesz utilizes an interesting tool of listing phrases caregivers have provided to describe various behaviors.

Several other major disease entities are also described. Clear cases of Primary Progressive Aphasia, Semantic Dementia, Corticobasal Degeneration and Progressive Supranuclear Palsy are outlined. The entire gamut of Dr. Kertesz's controversial “Pick Complex” is reviewed and an interesting description presented of how he arrived at his integrated view of these disorders. He gently guides us through the arcane and interrelated pathology of these conditions.

An important chapter at the end of the book is directed to caregivers and provides practical advice that has proven valuable to his patients in the past.

This book will interest a broad audience. It is written in accessible style which will provide valuable information for the lay public, caregivers, support workers and nurses. It will prove to be a valuable resource for residents and clinicians in Geriatrics, Psychiatry and Neurology. It comes highly recommended.

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