

AN INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL NEUROLOGY. 1993. By Alan Guberman. Published by Little, Brown and Company. 610 pages. \$C58.00

When this book was sent for review my first response was "not another one." From the books that are currently available there is no ideal book that one could recommend readily to the students and residents. There is also competition from a number of well established texts in clinical neurology. The library bookshelves and bookstores are increasingly under the strain of multiauthored books. The arrival of another book may seem to be unwarranted. However after the review such an impression was premature.

The principal and 3 contributing authors have compiled in *An Introduction to Clinical Neurology* a comprehensive and extremely well planned general neurology book. In the "Decade of the Brain" with such an explosion of information in basic and applied neurosciences the book gives a balanced account of both the traditional clinical approach and the new knowledge largely current to the date of publication.

The preface directs the reader to the justification, mission and content of the book. Although the 450 pages are divided into 29 chapters the style is uniform and emphasis is even. The text should be understandable to the experienced and novice alike. The major emphasis is in adult neurology but there is coverage of some useful aspects of pediatric topics of interest. The first 3 chapters are general, focusing on diagnosis and decision-making, history and neurological examination, laboratory and neurodiagnostic procedures. The style sets the scene for discussion in sufficient depth of the clinical expression, pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment of each disease or syndrome in the remaining chapters. The book is enriched and enhanced by the 3 contributing authors in discussing inherited metabolic and developmental disorders, molecular genetics and neuroimmunology. Unlike most general textbooks there is also a chapter on neuroophthalmology. Key tables are summarized and highlighted in more than 200 charts, tables and illustrations. Surprisingly the ample number of radiographs, CTs and MRIs are relatively well reproduced.

The weaknesses are few and are of minor importance. For instance it is not accurate that "an absent reflex is always pathological". There may be an absent jaw jerk at any age and no ankle reflex in the elderly and neither should be regarded as being abnormal. An absent abdominal reflex due to an upper motor neuron lesion should also be included in the causes that are mentioned in the book.

The readers will be disappointed that diabetic peripheral neuropathy, the most common neuropathy in the western world is barely mentioned or a reference provided.

This book is obviously the product of thoughtful hard work. All in all, despite the minor criticisms, I am glad to have this text to complement the others that are either encyclopedic or assume that the reader is skilled in bedside neurology which is sadly neglected and pervasive in the 1990s. Producing a textbook in a rapidly changing field is a daunting task. What sets this book apart is the extraordinary range of information presented and at the same time keep us well versed in the fundamentals of bedside clinical neurology. It is a good book not only for neurology residents but students of neurology at all levels.

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BRAIN INJURY AND NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL REHABILITATION: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES. 1994. 1st Edition. Edited by Anne-Lise Christensen and Barbara P. Uzzell. Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc. 341 pages. \$C47.00

This book addresses the knowledge gained in a five year span between two conferences held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The most recent conference was entitled "Progress in Neuropsychological Rehabilitation". The chapters are written by many different individual authors. The editors, Anne-Lise Christensen and Barbara P. Uzzell, work in rehabilitation centres based in Denmark and the United States respectively.

The initial chapter focuses on changes in the approach to rehabilitation of the brain injured individual. The increased use of treatment in groups as well as increased family involvement is noted. There is also a review of cognitive remediation. There then follows a review of the physiology and related pharmacology that occurs following brain injury. This is a very comprehensive review and includes treatment relevance at both a cellular and subsequently a clinical level.

The book continues with a number of chapters that have a narrower area of focus. Examples include aspects of brain imaging techniques, behavioral monitoring, cognitive training methods, use of computers in aphasia rehabilitation, and psychosocial functioning.

A significant portion of the book addresses outcome and its measurement as well as the economics involved with brain injury. There are separate chapters pertaining to Denmark and the United States. However, even in the preceding clinical chapters there is an ongoing awareness of outcomes to assess treatment effectiveness and cost efficiency.

Portions of the book would be of interest to anyone who is involved to a significant degree in the rehabilitation of individuals who have sustained brain injuries. Other portions are fairly narrow in scope and will appeal more to specific disciplines. Overall it is quite well written and reasonably priced.

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SPATIAL VISION IN HUMANS AND ROBOTS. 1993. 1st Edition. Edited by Laurence Harris and Michael Jenkin. Published by Cambridge University Press. 443 pages. \$C78.00

When I first cracked this book, it fell open to a page half-filled with equations. My immediate thought was that this was one of those works which should not be read by neurologists while operating heavy machinery. Unfortunately, although the work does have some truly interesting sections, that opinion still holds in general.

The book is the child of a conference held at York University in 1991. It shares the problems of all such compilations, being a little dated already and choppily uneven in style, quality and comprehensibility. The focus of the conference was broad, encompassing such diverse topics as cycloverision, attention, texture, colour, and a slew of computer vision models. Some readers will consider this eclectic mix unfocused but others may find the "bits and bytes" approach refreshing. The variety of papers is even broader than that found in most collections, since the conference aimed to mingle workers in human and computer vision, with hopes of cross-fertilization. For myself, this meant that the book was divided into those papers which I understood and those which I did not. Many computational works were difficult to grasp, so much so that the exceptions like Jepson and Richards' "What makes a good feature?" stand out. On the other hand, it was comforting to run across familiar psychophysical and physiologic ground like Wilson's section on non-linear processes, Regan's work on motion and texture-defined form, and Allman and Zucker's discussion on cytochrome oxidase blobs. However, much of this work can be found elsewhere: I gained