

## Book Reviews

**PATIENT CARE IN NEUROSURGERY.** Third Edition. By Nelson M. Oyesiku, M.D. and A. Loren Amacher, M.D. Published by Little Brown and Company. 317 pages. \$42 Cdn. approx.

The authors of this volume should be congratulated. They set out to update the previous edition of *Patient Care in Neurosurgery* and produced a book that can be used by both the neurosurgical resident and the residents and students of other disciplines rotating through a neurosurgical service.

The book first introduces the reader to important aspects of clinical neurosurgical physiology including cerebral blood flow and metabolism, intracranial pressure, brain water and electrophysiology. Later chapters deal with the common problems encountered in clinical neurosurgery and the authors have reviewed an impressive number of components of the neurosurgical spectrum. Of particular interest to the neurosurgical novice will be the procedural notes and illustrations which are located throughout the book. The thorough reference lists, present at the end of each chapter, will provide quick access to the relevant neurosurgical literature when the reader wishes further information about a particular topic.

*Mark Hamilton  
Calgary, Alberta*

**THE PERIPHERAL NERVE: STRUCTURE, FUNCTION, AND RECONSTRUCTION.** 1990. T.K. Terzis and K.L. Smith. Published by Raven Press. 192 pages. \$59 Cdn. approx.

Written by two plastic surgeons, this book provides selected information related to peripheral nerve injuries. The first author is well known to many Canadians from her training and work in Montreal before moving to Virginia.

The first of seven chapters describes the surgical anatomy of peripheral nerves — fascicular organization, connective tissue, and vascular supply. The last half of the chapter is devoted to sensory end organs, the topic of Terzis' Ph.D. thesis. The second chapter includes the Seddon and Sunderland classifications of nerve injury and sections on compression, stretch, ischemic, electrical, radiation and injection injury. Next is a discussion of some of the factors influencing peripheral nerve regeneration. The fourth chapter "Evaluation for the injured peripheral nerve" emphasizes testing of cutaneous sensory function and the fifth chapter describes several techniques for peripheral nerve repair. The last two brief chapters are followed by a reference list of more than 800 articles, most before 1985.

The best sections of the book are those where Terzis has a special interest — fascicular patterns in the brachial plexus, testing of sensory function, and surgical techniques. In contrast, other clinical and scientific aspects are presented superficially and are sometimes erroneous, for example, in the explanation of fibrillation.

The peripheral nerve aficionado may find scattered points of interest in this book. Most readers would get better value

from Stewart's "Focal Peripheral Neuropathies" or Omer and Spinner's "Management of Peripheral Nerve Problems".

*Peter Richardson  
Montreal, Quebec*

**THE TREATMENT OF INFANTILE HYDROCEPHALUS. VOLUMES I AND II.** 1987. First Edition. By Concezio Di Rocco. Published by CRC Press, Inc., Boca Raton, Florida. Volume I - 151 pages; Volume II - 174 pages. \$242 Cdn. approx.

This book is written mainly by Professor Di Rocco with some contribution from three of his colleagues at the Catholic Medical School in Rome, Italy. The book is divided into two volumes. The first volume has chapters on historical background, the natural history of hydrocephalus, medical and surgical treatment. The second volume deals with the long term results of treatment, surveillance of CSF shunt function, complications, and finally available shunt systems.

While entitled "Infantile Hydrocephalus", the book is really a review of the clinical management of hydrocephalus with the emphasis on younger children. No specific attempt is made to distinguish pathogenesis, treatment and complications in infants versus older children or adults. The chapters are detailed, comprehensive and well referenced, and Professor Di Rocco manages to make a balanced presentation in controversial areas. The chapter on historical aspects is particularly detailed and interesting with a number of examples of Italian Documents from the 17th and 18th century. However, there is nothing particularly new or innovative described in the book. It's not clear why the book is divided into two very small volumes, and the book is expensive.

The book is a very solid review of the clinical management of hydrocephalus, particularly in children. A broad spectrum of physicians will find it a useful reference.

*James M. Drake  
Toronto, Ontario*

**NEUROLOGY AND NEUROBIOLOGY, VOLUME 60: ADVANCES IN NEURAL REGENERATION RESEARCH.** 1990. Edited by Fredrick J. Seil. Published by Wiley-Liss, New York. 422 pages. \$94 Cdn. approx.

This book summarizes the proceedings of the Third International Symposium on Neural Regeneration held in December 1989 at Asilomar, California. With the use of camera-ready manuscripts, the book was published less than one year after the meeting.

The five sections, corresponding to half-day sessions, are entitled Axonal Growth and Synaptic Plasticity, Neural Growth Promoters and Inhibitors, Astrocyte Reactions in Injury and Regeneration, Molecular Mechanisms Relevant to