where the hypertensive response to isometric hand grip exercise is discussed, it would have been nice to see a reference to Lind and his colleagues who first demonstrated the response.

It was good to see a chapter about autonomic failure in the elderly. The extensive studies of the incidence of orthostatic hypotension, thermoregulatory impairment and the relationship of Parkinsons and cerebrovascular diseases to autonomic dysfunction in older people are very well discussed.

Almost every form of autonomic dysfunction from multiple system atrophy, familial dysautonomia, amyloid disruption of autonomic fibres, to problems of autonomic outflow to the eyes and many others are well discussed, with descriptions of clinical presentations, pathology, neurochemistry and investigative procedures. Associated problems such as ion and fluid homeostasis alterations receive attention.

The book ends with an exciting chapter on experimental studies of immune autonomic neuropathies. Throughout the book, present knowledge is supplemented with exciting experimental work in progress, and quantitative measuring techniques are presented to aid our studies of patients with autonomic nervous system disease, and attention is given to the difficult problems of management of these patients. The reference lists are extensive and the book is well indexed. It is a "state of the art" book, which, by its many stimulating discussions, will promote research work which will produce a need for a new edition in a few years. Though fairly expensive, this book is mandatory for the bookshelves of any physician, neurosurgeon or physiologist with a major interest in the autonomic nervous system.

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TOPICS IN NEONATAL NEUROLOGY. 1984. Published by Grune and Stratton. Edited by H.B. Sarnat. 301 pages.

Neonatal neurology, as a sub-discipline of neurology, has developed extremely rapidly during the past decade. A veritable explosion of new knowledge has occurred, both from the basic science and clinical points of view, largely prompted by technological advances which have enhanced the survival of critically-ill neonates. Several textbooks on neonatal neurology, some attempting to be encyclopedic, have appeared in the last few years. Unfortunately the exceptionally rapid evolution of knowledge about the developing brain and its many disorders has led to early obsolescence of some of the information in these books.

The recently published book, "Topics in Neonatal Neurology", has not been designed as another exhaustive review, but as a selective reassessment of several major problems in neonatal neurology with a view to updating knowledge in these areas and, hopefully, provoking further discussion and inquiry. Given these restricted goals, the authors of "Topics in Neonatal Neurology" have succeeded quite well in their endeavours.

Among the authors of this volume are a number of researchers who have made important contributions to the science of the neonatal brain and who remain in the forefront of their respective fields. Topics covered in the book include perinatal cerebral hypoxia-ischemia, periventricular and intraventricular hemorrhage, bilirubin encephalopathy, hyperammonemic encephalopathy, neonatal meningitis, apnea, and seizures. In addition there is a timely review of neonatal ultrasound, EEG and evoked potentials. The volume is prefaced by an interesting correlation of the anatomophysiologic changes in the developing brain and evolving behavioural phenomena in the premature infant.

On the whole the chapters are well-written and concise. There is a clear attempt to make the text easily comprehensible to readers from related fields. Relevant animal experimental data is presented carefully without losing the reader in a welter of conflicting information; the emphasis in each chapter remains that of the fundamental clinical problem for the practising physician. Reference material is up-to-date and appropriate without being exhaustive. There are unfortunately a disconcerting number of typographical errors in the text, sometimes of fairly major importance (eg. pictures incorrectly labelled or in reverse order to that described in the text). With this exception, "Topics in Neonatal Neurology" is a well-conceived book which will be of use, in particular, to pediatric neurologists, neonatologists and pediatricians involved in the care of sick newborns.

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ENTRAPMENT NEUROPATHIES. 1983. By D.M. Dawson, M. Hallett, L.H. Millender. Published by Little, Brown & Co.

Entrapment neuropathies are very common and their elucidation is important to a wide spectrum of general practitioners and specialists. In the last two decades, much has been learned of the pathophysiology of these entities. Electrophysiological techniques have now evolved to the point that localization and the probable underlying character of an entrapment neuropathy can be determined reliably.

This book is a collaborative effort of two neurologists and an orthopedic surgeon. It provides discussion of clinical presentations, differential diagnoses, electrophysiological diagnostic techniques and management placing particular emphasis on the more common neuropathies. The bibliography is both current and comprehensive and the illustrations helpful (although more intraoperative photographs are included than seems necessary to make the essential points).

This new volume is recommended as a concise yet adequately comprehensive guide to the recognition and management of entrapment neuropathies. It is well worth its price.

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PATHOLOGY OF SKELETAL MUSCLE. By Sterling Carpenter and George Karpati. Published by Churchill Livingstone. 754 pages. $132.50 Cdn.

In the first sentence of the preface, the authors stated that "the central purpose of this book is to provide an accurate description of the pathology of skeletal muscle". I believe that they have succeeded admirably in doing this.

Approximately half of the book is devoted to a description of:

a) the general pathologic reactions that affect muscle fibers,
b) the normal organelles and constituents of muscle fibers and how they react pathologically,
c) abnormal structures that can be found in muscle fibers, and

d) cells and structures other than muscle fibers, that are seen in skeletal muscle.

The last half of the text deals with specific diseases that affect skeletal muscle. In all sections the findings are described in terms of light microscopy of frozen (routine stains and enzyme histochemistry) and resin sections and electron microscopy.

In almost all instances, the pictures are good examples of the particular phenomenon or disease entity being described and they are of excellent technical quality. I suspect that the occasional colour plate is not an accurate reproduction of the colouring of the original section and I believe that use of a slightly higher power photograph would have made it easier for non-experts to appreciate the specific finding being portrayed in a few instances.

In my opinion, this is the best and most complete book available on skeletal muscle pathology today and I believe that it will quickly become the standard teaching and reference text on this subject. All departments of pathology and neurology should have copies in their libraries.

The last 25 years have seen major advances made in the field of skeletal muscle pathology and this book is a true reflection of these changes. Significant future advances in the field of skeletal muscle pathology will be dependent on the development of novel methods of study.

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NEUROLOGY — THE PHYSICIAN'S GUIDE. 1984. Robert G. Feldman. Thieme-Stratton Inc. New York. 276 pages. $39.75.

This text has as its rationale a method of approach for the recognition, diagnosis and treatment of common neurological problems to be utilized by the neurologically unsophisticated or uncertain primary care physician. This is indeed a laudable goal, one which regrettably has not been adequately realized.

The initial chapter attempts to convey examination subtleties and skills, the refinement of which can only be learned after years of observation, practice and hands-on experience, the opportunity and time for which will not be available to the primary care physician.

The next chapter while correctly emphasizing the need and value of appropriate referral then proceeds to outline in great detail, stressing the decision making processes involved, all of the sophisticated tests and investigations presumably at one's disposal. Such information is indeed pertinent but for the specialist not the primary care physician.

The remaining fourteen chapters are devoted either to symptoms ie., headache or to specific neurological disorders ie., multiple sclerosis. Though providing a plethora of information frequently it is much too detailed and complex, thereby being of little relevant value for the primary care physician. Terms and phrases are often used without adequate explanation or definition. Also the attempt at brevity versus the desire for completeness has led to compression and over simplification resulting in errors and inconsistencies as well as statements which are incorrect, inappropriate or misleading ie., (a) lumbar puncture should be performed in the investigation of a newly diagnosed seizure disorder, (b) drug holiday useful in the management of Parkinson's disease and that (c) all stroke patients must have both a plain and an enhanced CT scan, this investigative modality being inappropriately equated with the requirement for a chest x-ray and EKG in the management of a patient with chest pain. This is most distressing as it conveys to the majority of primary care physicians who practice in areas far removed from the availability of CT scan that their stroke patients are being inadequately managed.

Multiple authorship has resulted in a markedly uneven content. The chapters on states of altered consciousness as well as dizziness, vertigo and unsteadiness are done in an exceedingly poor fashion. Surprisingly no chapters have been devoted to the topics of head trauma, infections or tumour which surely are matters of concern to every primary care or non-neurological emergency room physician.

Attempts have been made in most chapters to provide therapeutic advice, however the complexities and nuances are so thoroughly portrayed (most particularly re Parkinson's disease) that most primary care physicians, indeed many neurologists, would not venture to initiate such management.

There are several very commendable chapters most particularly those devoted to multiple sclerosis, brain and behavior, neurological complications which may occur during pregnancy or in association with excess alcohol intake, occupational and environmental neurology and in the chapter on pediatric neurology, the section dealing with the attention deficit disorder.

This book may be recommended for those already partially or totally conversent with the field of neurology ie., would prove most useful for residents in training. However it cannot be advised for its intended audience, ie., primary care physicians. This is most regrettable as there is indeed a compelling need for a neurological textbook that offers a limited body of practical knowledge, a workable approach and meaningful advice and guidance to such physicians.

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