

Correspondence

To the Editor:

I was very interested in reading the article "The early development of neuroscience in Canada" by H.H. JASPER (CJNS 1985, 12:221-229), partly because I am familiar with some of the people mentioned in the article. For example, in the photograph which appears as Figure 2 on Page 225, I could recognize, at first glance, Dr. Penfield (in the middle of the second row) and Dr. Yi Cheng Chao (second from right in the fourth row). I still keep a picture which was taken with both of them when Dr. Penfield visited Tianjin in 1961, and I knew Dr. Chao quite well. Therefore I can say with certainty that Dr. Chao was mistakenly identified as C.L. Lee in the legend which accompanies Figure 2.

Dr. Chao was the Rockefeller travelling fellow from China and was working at the Montreal Neurological Institute in 1938

and 1939 at the time this picture was taken. I have shown this picture to Dr. Chao's son and to his widowed wife. They have both established that the individual in the picture is Dr. Chao and not C.L. Lee, and they hope that this error can be corrected, if possible.

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Editor's Note:

We have confirmed with Dr. Jasper that Dr. Yi Cheng Chao was the individual appearing in this photograph. The Journal is grateful to Dr. Wang for bringing this error to our attention.

Book Reviews

TEXTBOOK OF NEUROLOGICAL NURSING. By Phyllis J. Pollett and Mary T. O'Brien. Published by Little, Brown & Company Boston/Toronto. 1985. 735 pages. \$39 Cdn.

The authors indicate that "the purpose of the book is to provide the professional nurse with a knowledge base from which to draw in planning care for the neurologically impaired adult". Although intended particularly for baccalaureate or graduate level nurses, it will be useful too for all nurses who care for this type of patient.

The book is divided into five parts and twenty-five chapters. The opening section covers neurological anatomy and physiology in some depth and concludes with chapters on the physical examination and on diagnostic studies. The remainder of the text provide a comprehensive and current account of common diseases of the nervous system with the related treatment and nursing care. Many excellent illustrations and tables complement the content. A useful twenty-four page glossary is included.

The book would have been enhanced by a chapter dealing with pain and its management, by better illustration of diagnostic procedures and by reference to digital subtraction angiography and to magnetic resonance imaging. The nursing care of the postoperative carotid endarterectomy and extracranial-intracranial bypass patient deserves more emphasis as do the psychosocial factors involved in the care of patients and their families.

Notwithstanding those deficiencies, the textbook should be of great assistance to those nurses planning care for the neurological patient.

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THE PHYSIOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL BASIS OF ELECTROMYOGRAPHY. By William F. Brown. Published by Butterworth, 1984. \$59.95

In preparing this volume, Dr. Brown has defined a hiatus in the peripheral electrodiagnostic literature, and then has pro-

ceeded to fill it to near perfection. Since 1980 several general textbooks of electromyography and electrodiagnosis have been published including Ludin's "Electromyography in Practice" (Thieme-Stratton, New York, 1980), Ludin and Tackmann's "Sensory Neurography" (Thieme-Stratton, New York, 1981), Goodgold and Eberstein's third edition of "Electrodiagnosis of Neuromuscular Diseases" (Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, 1983) and pre-eminently, Kimura's excellent "Electrodiagnosis in Diseases of Nerve and Muscle" (F.A. Davis, Philadelphia, 1983). All of these have been conceived as "hands-on" guides to the various electrodiagnostic procedures conventionally grouped under the term "electromyography". None has strongly emphasized the physiological under-pinnings of the assumptions inherent in the interpretation of results in peripheral electrodiagnosis. Although the volume edited by Sumner, "The Physiology of Peripheral Nerve Disease" (W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1980) appears to have been intended to occupy this ground, much of its content does not bear directly on what goes on in the typical EMG laboratory. Published in 1980, it has begun to show its age. Dr. Brown's new book seeks to fill this void by emphasizing peripheral nerve physiology as it bears directly on peripheral electrodiagnosis and as such, serves as a superlative companion to texts such as Kimura's.

Beginning with a comprehensive and comprehensible review of the generation of normal transmembrane potentials and normal impulse conduction in nerve, Dr. Brown goes on to discuss what is known about pathological impulse conduction. His discussion of the techniques employed in conventional and more esoteric nerve conduction studies correctly underlines the need for vigor in the application of each technique. Even with most painstaking care, electromyographers are left with "numbers" which are not as "hard" as they would like. The author's sobering tough-mindedness concerning the limitations of the techniques employed is an especially refreshing theme throughout the book.

Needle electromyography is given similarly thorough coverage, as are tests of neuromuscular transmission and cranial nerve electrodiagnosis. However, somatosensory evoked potentials, single fibre EMG, late response studies and "central" EMG are discussed somewhat less completely. Each of these topics