

occurs it has relatively different characteristics, both clinically and pathologically. Asian M.S. patients are much more likely to have an optico-spinal form of the disease and pathologically to show a relative lack of inflammatory cells and negative CSF studies. These observations bear directly on the growing suspicion in the minds of many investigators that MS is characterized by heterogeneity, some of it genetic. The different distribution of MS pathology in the Orient brings to mind the rather different features of cerebral vascular disease in Japan compared to North America (e.g.: relative differences in frequency of carotid stenosis and middle cerebral artery disease).

Reports on occurrence of MS are presented from Japan, Korea, China, Philippines, Thailand, India, Hungary, Hawaii, Sicily and Malta. With respect to the latter two locations Dean makes the remarkable observation that the frequency of MS in Sicily is many times that in Malta even though the two islands are separated by only 60 miles.

This book will appeal mainly to individuals whose main interest is in demyelinating diseases but it will likely make a valuable addition to institutional libraries. The cost of the book (\$118.00) will likely limit its distribution.

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CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES OF THE OPTIC NERVE AND RELATED FOREBRAIN, by Thomas E. Acers, M.D. Lea and Febinger. Philadelphia. 1983. 75 pages. Price \$18.15 Cdn.

This brief synopsis was written by an ophthalmologist after insufficient consultation with a neuropathologist. The author states in the preface that he does not "intend this book to be an encyclopedic treatise . . ." and indeed he keeps his word. The brief and shallow discussion of the collection of

unrelated disorders he has selected is not in itself the weakness of the book; rather the author's inaccurate correlation of ocular and neuropathologic findings and his oversimplified explanations of the embryologic bases of the malformations nullify his laudable efforts. The many omissions of important recent advances further exaggerate many of the erroneous premises.

Chapter 5 is supposedly devoted to holoprosencephaly. Not one of the four illustrations of computed tomograms and gross pathologic sections of brain actually demonstrates holoprosencephaly. Crouzon's and Apert's syndromes are briefly mentioned as associated disorders, but neither has ever been reported radiographically or neuropathologically to exhibit holoprosencephaly. Chapter 6 on septo-optic dysplasia fails to cite the several studies in the past few years showing extensive cerebellar dysgenesis in this disorder, but does note pituitary involvement in some cases. Brief discussions of vascular anomalies and "phakomatoses" are limited to the ocular findings.

Chapter 7 is entitled 'Congenital Ophthalmoplegia Plus' and notes that it is associated with ". . . spinocerebellar ataxia, limb-girdle myopathy, heart block, cardiomyopathy . . . and aminoacidopathy syndromes." The metabolic basis of the disease, a systemic mitochondrial disorder, is nowhere mentioned despite the numerous publications of the last decade. A table cites a reference to a paper by Drachman (1968), but the author then forgot to include the citation among the references at the end of the chapter.

In sum, this book is poorly researched and shallow in depth, apart from the author's conscious effort to be brief and concise. It does not provide ophthalmologists with the neuropathologic correlation it purports to do, and would be of little value to neurologists seeking correlation with ocular pathology. I cannot recommend it.

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Books Received

CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES OF THE OPTIC NERVE AND RELATED FOREBRAIN, 1983. By Thomas E. Acers, M.D. Published by Lea and Febiger. 75 pages. \$18.25 Cdn.

CEREBRAL VASCULAR DISEASE (BIMR NEUROLOGY 3), 1983. Edited by Michael J.G. Harrison and Mark L. Dyken. Published by Butterworth. 414 pages. \$59.95 U.S.

DEMENTIA — A CLINICAL APPROACH, 1983. By Jeffrey L. Cummings and D. Frank Benson. Published by Butterworth. 416 pages. \$34.95 U.S.

EPILEPSY: AN UPDATE ON RESEARCH AND THERAPY. SERIES: PROGRESS IN CLINICAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH, 1983. Vol. 124. By Nistico Giuseppe, Raoul de Perri and H. Meinardi. Published by Alan R. Liss, New York. 396 pages. \$76.00 U.S.

BASIC MECHANISMS OF NEURONAL HYPEREXCITABILITY, 1983. SERIES: NEUROLOGY AND NEUROBIOLOGY. By Herbert H. Jasper and Nico M. Van Gelder. Published by Alan R. Liss. 512 pages. \$96.00 U.S.

PROGRESS IN CLINICAL NEUROPHYSIOLOGY. Vol. 10 COMPUTER-AIDED ELECTROMYOGRAPHY, 1983. Edited by J.E. Desmedt. Published by Karger, Switzerland. X + 334 pages. \$99.00 U.S.

CLINICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF PERIPHERAL NERVE DISEASES. SERIES: NEUROLOGY AND NEUROBIOLOGY, VOL. 4. Edited by Leontino Battistin, George A. Hashim and Abel Lajtha. Published by Alan R. Liss Inc., New York. 402 pages. \$48.00 U.S.