

treatment have become increasingly frequent. Therefore, the field of neuro-oncology has come into its own as a recognized area of clinical specialization. It is therefore very appropriate for a major new textbook of Neuro-Oncology to be published at this time.

The stated goal of "Neurological Complications of Cancer" is 'to provide a practically useful reference source for all professionals treating cancer patients and an introduction to clinical trainees.' The authors have succeeded admirably in this goal.

The book is divided into three main sections: Specific Management Problems, Neurological Complications of Anticancer Therapy and Neurological Complications of Specific Neoplasms.

Specific Management Problems include brain metastases, spinal metastases, leptomeningeal metastases and peripheral nervous system complications in cancer patients. These chapters contain very thorough reviews of the topic under discussion with extensive references. The chapter on primary malignant brain tumors is an excellent introduction to the topic suitable for general neurologists but is insufficient for medical oncologists or radiation oncologists who must treat these patients. The chapter on cerebrovascular complications of cancer is particularly well written, as is the chapter on the use of glucocorticoids in neuro-oncology.

Neurological Complications of Anticancer Therapy includes complications of radiotherapy, chemotherapy and immunotherapy. The chapters are comprehensive and clearly written.

Neurological Complication of Specific Neoplasms included descriptions of the common neurological complications of a wide variety of primary malignancies including all the major types of solid tumors, leukemia and lymphoma and childhood cancers.

The main strengths of this book include its clear organization, both overall and within each chapter. The clarity of the writing makes it easy to read. Tables are used extensively where appropriate. The number of illustrations is not large, but those included clearly illustrate the topic under discussion.

The main drawback of the book is the amount of duplication. Often the same topic is discussed in two or more chapters of the book, and cross-references are usually lacking. For example, there is an incomplete discussion of chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy in Chapter 4 (Peripheral Nervous System Complications in Cancer Patients) and a much more complete review of this topic in Chapter 11 (Neurological Complications of Chemotherapy). Similarly, there is a brief discussion of Lambert Eaton myasthenic syndrome and paraneoplastic encephalopathy in Chapter 13 (Neurological complications of Lung Cancer) and a more complete discussion in Chapter 8 (Management of Paraneoplastic Neurological Syndromes). In neither case, were the two discussions cross-referenced. Readers must be careful to check the index to make sure they have read all sections of the book pertinent to a topic which they may wish to review.

I would recommend this book to neurologists, radiation oncologists and medical oncologists. It is also a valuable reference for residents training in these disciplines.

*Dorcas Fulton,
Edmonton, Alberta*

SINGLE FIBER ELECTROMYOGRAPHY: STUDIES IN HEALTHY AND DISEASED MUSCLE. 2nd Edition. 1994. By Erik Stålberg and Joze Trontelj. Published by Raven Press. 303 pages. \$C103.00

The second edition of "Single Fiber Electromyography" (SFEMG) is a welcome update of the standard reference text for anyone using single fiber electromyography in their laboratory. This updated text continues the excellent traditions set in the first book

by reviewing the basic physiology and pathophysiology underlying the methods in the text, but primarily single fiber electromyography. The book then continues with SFEMG findings in different pathological conditions. Much information discovered since publication of the first edition has been incorporated in the new volume. Some sections of strictly historical interest have been included and provide an interesting contrast to modern techniques and equipment. Reading the book provides a historical review of development of electromyographic techniques in the last twenty years. Validation of the methodology is found in the reference values obtained from many investigators when compared to the Stålberg data.

This book is highly recommended to any electromyographer performing electromyographic examinations. A thorough comprehension of the principles laid out in this book ensures an understanding of the field of electromyography. To those performing single fiber studies, this book is an essential reference material which should be reviewed and kept in the laboratory. Anyone who wishes to do single fiber electromyography should adhere to the steps laid out in the book if they wish to perform valid studies. To anyone teaching the methodology, this volume is the gold standard. The book can be reread many times, as the information is densely compressed, and elegantly presented. I would urge all electromyographers to read this book. I congratulate the authors on a fine update.

*Vera Bril
Toronto, Ontario*

LEFT BRAIN – RIGHT BRAIN DIFFERENCES. 1993. By James F. Iaccino. Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publishers. 284 pages. \$C24.50

Few aspects of neuroscience research have captured the popular imagination in the way that reports of differences between the cerebral hemispheres have. Several books offer to teach us how to use both sides of our brains to good effect. Even cartoonists take for granted that readers have heard of this dichotomy. James F. Iaccino's affordable volume subtitled "Inquiries, Evidence, and New Approaches" presents an overview of research in the field of cerebral asymmetries. Introductory chapters review anatomical and functional differences between the left and right hemispheres in humans and in animals. A second section discusses what psychiatric and neurologic conditions including commissurotomy can teach us about brain asymmetries. Attention then turns to studies on hemispheric specialization in normal subjects with particular reference to the confounding effects of handedness, sex, and development. A concluding chapter suggests new techniques that may be useful in future studies. Iaccino's target audience seems to be psychology students although others will find material of interest here.

A refreshing feature of this book is the use of questions as chapter titles. "Are Cerebral Asymmetries Unique to the Human Species?" and "How are Asymmetries Studied in the Normal Brain?" are examples. As Iaccino's own studies have often involved college undergraduates, he seems much more at home discussing research done in normals than in discussing clinical conditions. His description of alexia without agraphia, for example, is ambiguous and unlikely to help the student understand the condition. Iaccino attributes depression to right hemisphere dysfunction and cites a few studies supporting this notion, ignoring several investigations suggesting that depression is more of a problem after left rather than right hemisphere strokes. Although his discussion of techniques likely to prove useful in the future includes PET scanning, functional MRI is conspicuously absent.