

Book reviews

MANUAL OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Diagnosis and Therapy (Second Edition).

Ed M. Strome, J. H. Kelly, M. P. Fried.

Little, Brown and Co, 1992.

ISBN 0 316 81968 9. Price £16.95.

This is a generally excellent small reference book, covering the whole range of ENT disease and management.

It has been written by a variety of specialists in their fields, including a speech therapist and a medical student, with editorial control being held by three associate professors at Harvard and Johns Hopkins.

The book is aimed generally at medical students though most British medical students would, I feel, find it too complex and perhaps too clinically orientated and might be better buying a rather smaller, simpler textbook. Nevertheless, for house officers and other junior staff working in an ENT unit practically all problems are covered with a typical North American exactness management of problems, investigations, treatment and possible complications are all specified clearly and logically with, for example, specific antibiotics for specific conditions being suggested. Evidently such information becomes dated very rapidly so that the authors will be obliged to keep this book up-to-date.

There are eight main sections in the book, each subdivided. These include a useful chapter on emergencies, and a review of the signs and symptoms of HIV infection and AIDS as seen by ENT surgeons. It is not extensively illustrated, but the black and white line drawings where present are useful and clearly understood.

There is very little theoretical background discussed, being primarily a small clinical textbook, easily carried in a pocket and giving excellent advice on the basic problems that are encountered in practice, as well as information that can be difficult to find in other larger textbooks (for example, bronchoscope and tracheostomy tube sizes for use in neonates and children).

The binding of this book is unfortunately not ideal—the pages can be difficult to open and as the paper is thin it tears rather easily on the spiral binding. This, however, is a small criticism of an otherwise excellent small textbook.

Quentin Gardiner.

COCHLEAR IMPLANTS— AUDIOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

Ed Richard S. Tyler.

Whurr Publishers, 1993.

ISBN 1 897635 001. Price: £27.50.

The editor, Professor Richard Tyler is Head of Audiology in the University of Iowa. The work done in the Department in Iowa, funded by the NIH, involved developing comparative tests of cochlear implant function. These tests have been used

as the benchmarks for evaluating cochlear implant systems. It is therefore most appropriate that Professor Tyler should edit this book.

In his preface he says that the purpose of the book is to 'provide foundation or principals for students, audiologists and speech and language pathologists with their understanding of cochlear implants.' It is notable that he excludes otologists but in fact he is wrong to do so because otologists must have an understanding of the audiological foundations in order to work intelligently within a cochlear implant team.

The format of the book has been a great success. The authors selected by Professor Tyler for the different chapters have excelled in research and excel in print also. Arthur Boothroyd in the first chapter of Profound Deafness makes it clear that great care must be taken in the choice of implant patients because those that could get more benefit from a hearing aid must not be implanted, but it is also clear that he is an enthusiast for implantation in those that cannot be aided with acoustic aids.

Since speech perception in adult implantees is the most important role for cochlear implants, the chapter on Speech Perception by Adults by Michael Dorman is crucial to the book and is very well done. Initially the evidence for cochlear implant benefit was very much anecdotal, and in the swing away from this there was a tendency to rely too much on testing and to ignore anecdotal evidence altogether. Michael Dorman presents the evidence of testing succinctly and clearly but also tells some stories and reports which makes the chapter more readable. Professor Tyler keeps for himself the most difficult chapter of all, which is speech perception in children. These are still evolving and he takes us through the maze of seventeen different tests which have been devised at different centres.

There are also good chapters on the psychoacoustic and electrophysiological basis of cochlear implants.

There is no doubt that this is an essential book for anyone working in the cochlear implant field. The references are numerous and up to date and there are tantalizing glimpses into the possibilities for the future in the chapter on signal processing. It is not a book for every ENT surgeon but every unit carrying out cochlear implants should have a copy of this book because it represents a challenge to bring the standard of testing in Europe up to the standards which have already been achieved in the United States.

J. G. Fraser.

RIGID FIXATION OF THE CRANIOMAXILLOFACIAL SKELETON

Ed M. J. Yaremchuk, Joseph S. Gruss and Paul N. Manson.

Butterworth-Heinemann.

ISBN 0 7506 9197 2. Price: £175.00.

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