

Book Reviews

DEVELOPMENTS IN GENETIC HEARING IMPAIRMENT

Edited by Dafydd Stephens, Andrew Read, Alessandro Martini
Whurr Publishers Ltd, 1998
ISBN 186156 058 3. Price: £25.00.

Following on from their worthy book 'Genetics and Hearing Impairment' the editors have compiled the first volume of a series reporting the main papers presented at the first conference on Genetic Hearing Impairment held in Milan in October 1996. It was held as part of the Concerted Action programme 'HEAR' under the auspices of the European Commission BIOMED 2 programme and focused primarily on the results of new gene localization and identification and the development of more relevant audiometric and vestibulometric investigations. Within this context, gene therapy, inner ear radiology, the development of an Internet database and decision support system for genetic hearing impairment are also reported. There then follows sections on the epidemiology of genetic hearing impairment and reports on autosomal dominant, recessive and X-linked non-syndromal deafness. The exciting area of mitochondrial disorders and their relationship to deafness is explored and finally a variety of syndromal conditions and mutations are reported.

Much of the work compiled in this book has already been reported in the literature and reviewed thoroughly in many clinical and scientific journals. However, for anyone entering the field of genetics and deafness whether as clinician or scientist then this book provides an excellent point of reference for much of the research being undertaken at that time by many of the prominent players in this rapidly expanding field. The next volume in this series is eagerly awaited.

HEAR website: <http://hear.unife.it/>

Hereditary Hearing Loss Homepage: <http://dnalab-www.uia.ac.be/dnalab/hhh/>

JUSTIN WEIR

HEAD AND NECK SURGERY, VOLUME 3: THE NECK

Edited by W. R. Panje, C. Herberhold,
Thieme, 1998.

ISBN 3 13 547 002 4. Price: DM 396.00

First impressions of this book are of a well put together and beautifully presented package of neck surgery. The focus of the book is operative surgery and provides no detail on pathology, tumour staging etc. The initial chapter on neck dissection and vascular surgery are thorough and informative. However, the section on endoscopy is somewhat verbose. There is poor coverage of the technique of thyroplasty with no references made

to the Isshiki techniques. I do not feel qualified to comment on the chapters on the cervical spine though these would appear to be excellently illustrated with a correspondingly thorough text. My chief concerns are with some of the surgical techniques used; how many Head and Neck surgeons would carry out a unilateral resection of the pharyngeal wall for a patient with chronic aspiration? Likewise, I would question the role of split skin grafting over a stent for a partial defect in the hypopharynx following laryngectomy. Other minor criticisms include the elaborate and complex description of primary voice rehabilitation which is essentially a straight forward procedure. Covering an exposed carotid artery with a free dermal graft is also something not carried out very commonly these days. In spite of these niggles, the book does provide a comprehensive coverage of neck surgery and, for the most part, does this well. It would have been beneficial to have a section on the surgical management of pharyngocutaneous fistulae, but other than that I don't think the authors have omitted any significant topics.

Whilst recommending this as a useful edition to any Head and Neck library it should not be considered as providing, in every instance, the last word on neck surgery. At the cost of £159 (approx) I don't regard it as value for money for the trainee to purchase for his or her own use.

NICHOLAS D. STAFFORD

MANUAL OF DYSPHAGIA ASSESSMENT IN ADULTS

Joseph Murray

Singular Publishing Group Inc. 1998

ISBN 1 56593 871 2. Price: \$49.95.

This text offers a comprehensive overview of the assessment of patients with dysphagia, including a detailed history and examination, video fluoroscopic examination and also clinical examination. It includes excellent sample data collection sheets which can be used within the confines of a specialist dysphagia clinic. It probably has limited value and interest for the general Otolaryngologist. However, I am sure it would prove an invaluable guide and source of reference for those practitioners who have a special interest in swallowing problems and dysphagia and also would be extremely helpful to those wishing to set up a multi-disciplinary dysphagia clinic.

It is written for the North American market and therefore may not be directly relevant in all aspects to UK practice. Nevertheless, I do not think this detracts greatly from its usefulness as a companion to the dysphagia clinic.

GRANT BATES