

and small dogs, setting Vladimir Putin as an example. Then it is back to Darwinism with the rather obscure title "Evolutionary Setups for Off-Line Planning of Coherent Stages" and a treatise by William Calvin which explains the title. Perhaps "think before you throw" would cover it more concisely. Creativity is clearly and instructively analyzed by the philosophical paper of Steven Harnad. Pasteur's dictum of "chance favours the prepared mind" could be modified: chance favours the prepared open mind.

Eran Zaidel and Jonas Kaplan invite you to participate in their "flashy" web-based experiments on callosal interhemispheric transfer, investigating alexithymia (the inability to express emotions by patients with callosal or right hemispheric damage). Ray Gibbs cleverly poses the age old mind-body question in a dramatic form of a conversation between a student and a prof. He takes you (and Molly the student) from mirror neurons to metaphors. Sid Segalowitz leads us onto the dangerous path of reductionistic neuroscience and determinism but makes a valiant effort to rescue free will. J. Panksepp tells us that he is 'wed to the idea perhaps beyond reason that affect is the central compass of life well lived'. Appletree Rodden's chapter on humor seriously lights up the whole brain (wait till you read his bio-sketch) and McCormick follows Hans Selye into the well trod field of the neuroendocrinology of stress. I liked the smell of gasoline when I was a kid, so I read with sympathy mixed with horror the chapter on petrol sniffing, sorcery and aboriginals. The best is left to the last: Noam Chomsky, answering questions posed to him by contributors to the book. The Olympian answers are complex and obscure and at times a surprising "I don't know". Regardless of Chomsky's politics, or quite possibly because of it, when he speaks about language, people listen.

Each chapter is prefaced by the editors in a paragraph of a few enticing sentences. I read these after reviewing the book, so I could not be accused of lifting descriptive elements and bypassing the content. The book seems to be aimed at the general neuroscience audience without requiring any specialized knowledge. It is uniquely posed between a technical and a popular science volume and is a highly readable, entertaining and instructive one. Henri Cohen and Brigitte Stemmer, along with their contributors must be congratulated in accomplishing their aim.

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PROGRESS IN EPILEPTIC DISORDERS. FROM FIRST UNPROVOKED SEIZURE TO NEWLY DIAGNOSED EPILEPSY. 2007. By Philippe Ryvlin, Ettore Beghi, Peter Camfield, Dale Hesdorffer. Published by John Libby Eurotext. 220 pages. Price C\$115.

This book is a result of the participation of international experts in a workshop that took place in March, 2007. The participants were primarily from European and U.S. centres. Only one chapter is by Canadian epileptologists.

The book is divided into six sections. It is a comprehensive review of what is currently known about the first unprovoked seizure and its relation to newly diagnosed epilepsy and natural evolution.

A treatment approach to first unprovoked seizures is discussed. The authors address what types of trials and studies are needed for early treatment of epilepsy.

Although most of the chapters relate to a first unprovoked seizure, there are some chapters that are of interest, but which do not directly relate to an isolated epileptic event. There is a chapter on complex febrile seizures in epilepsy. There is a chapter on the comorbidity of epilepsy and neuropsychiatric disorders. There is a chapter on epileptic seizures and dysimmune syndromes. This chapter is of interest and is covered in 37 pages. There is a chapter on refractory epilepsy and surgical treatment.

The book is generally easy to read. It can be read in several hours. The style varies from chapter to chapter and is related to the contribution by authors from multiple countries.

The book is up-to-date and provides excellent reference material as recent as 2007. It provides an updated review on epidemiological data, review of the natural evolution of single unprovoked seizures, risk factors for the development of epilepsy and the potential for comorbid conditions. Therapeutic issues are reviewed.

The book is a clinical review. There are no basic chapters. It would have been useful to include a chapter on the pathophysiological changes of single seizures in experimental models of epilepsy. I would also have been interested in a review of a single seizure in the elderly population.

In summary, this is a readable book with concise information, which will be of interest to physicians treating children and adults with seizure disorders. It serves as an updated summary of the currently available information on an important clinical issue. It provides excellent reference material. The book is worth the cost.

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LOCKED IN. 2007. By Mike Esposito. Published by Durban House. 430 pages. Price C\$16.

So you're attending a conference, perhaps the CNSF Congress, and you have to fly several hours to get there. You could do worse than to bring along a copy of Mike Esposito's first novel to help bide those often dreary airplane hours. Esposito's a neuroradiologist in Tampa and he's written a Grishamesque thriller about neuroradiology. The book opens with Dr. John Armstrong performing a radiological feat of derring-do reminiscent of the pre-credits scene of a James Bond movie – an exciting sequence that has little to do with the rest of the story.

A group of physicians concocts a plan to falsify patient results in order to get huge kickbacks from the malpractice lawyer who's part of their crooked team. At the center of it all is Dr. Armstrong, a neuroradiologist who's willing to do just about anything for money. The concept is an interesting and alarming one. A weakness of the novel is Armstrong's complete lack of any redeeming or endearing characteristics. We're not witnessing the gradual corruption of a guy who starts out basically decent but the continuing adventures of a man who's already a scoundrel when the book begins. In fact, pretty well every physician in the story is frighteningly unethical. Even the

idealistic new radiologist in town is more interested in what he'll be paid than in what he can do for people. Most of us can identify better with a sympathetic character who's drawn almost unwittingly into something bad. Even Macbeth, for example, starts off with some admirable qualities before the witches, his wife, and his own ambition catch hold of him.

The first half of the novel could have been drastically shortened as we get off to quite a slow beginning. The action is often interrupted by detailed descriptions of neuroradiological procedures on patients we usually never meet again. The story does become a page-turner in the second half as the scheme inevitably begins to fall apart. Armstrong is supposed to be devoted to his daughter and she's a motivation for his wanting to make more money. However, we hardly meet her in the novel and never even get a scene where father and daughter actually have a conversation to convince us that he gives a damn about anything but cash.

Lay readers will learn about neuroradiology and the brain, but unfortunately, they'll also leave this novel with the impression that physicians are money-hungry monsters who'll stop at nothing including murder. Early John Grisham novels make better airplane reads but "Locked In" is worth a look and I have a feeling that there will be better things to come from Mike Esposito.

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CENTRAL PAIN SYNDROME: PATHOPHYSIOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT. 2007. By Sergio Canavero, Vincenzo Bonicalzi. Published by Cambridge University Press. 382 pages. Price C\$95.

Throughout the last century, central pain was regarded as an enigma – the pain mechanisms were virtually unknown and effective treatments were lacking in the vast majority of patients. The introduction to this book states that the authors "turn the concept of central pain on its head, providing a rational approach to therapy based on scientific theory". Canavero, a neurosurgeon, and Bonicalzi, a neuroanesthesiologist, only partially succeed in this task.

The authors provide probably the most complete reference source on central pain that has ever been assembled. The history of central pain going back almost two hundred years, the clinical phenomenology and the proposed pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment are all presented in a most readable fashion. There are pages of tables that nicely summarize all of these areas.

It is clear that central pain can arise from damage to any part of the central pain pathway from the spinothalamic tract to the thalamus to the parietal cortex. However, beyond that, there is little consensus despite the best arguments of the authors. Based on evoked potential studies, functional imaging, magnetic resonance spectroscopy and microelectrode recordings, the authors posit that central pain arises from an imbalance in the normal reverberation loop between the thalamus and parietal cortex (especially the primary somatosensory area). The end result is a form of central sensitization due to hyperactivity in both the thalamus and cortex. There is some support for this theory in that there are rare reports of

central post-stroke pain being abolished by a further stroke involving the subcortical white matter although the authors agree that neurodestructive lesions are rarely helpful in management. They further propose that a deficiency of GABA-A activity at the corticosensory level provides the major neurochemical substrate responsible for central pain. Propofol is a recently introduced intravenous anesthetic that has GABA-A enhancing properties and the authors have published two randomized, controlled trials totaling 60 patients showing overall benefit from subanesthetic doses of propofol in central pain syndromes versus placebo. They further recommend extradural cortical stimulation as a definitive treatment for intractable cases, but only if the patient is propofol responsive. The problem, of course, is that a substantial number of patients with intractable central pain do not respond to cortical stimulation whether they are propofol responsive or not. In addition, there are no randomized, controlled trials to support the role of cortical stimulation in the management of central pain.

Canavero and Bonicalzi are to be congratulated for their exhaustive study of central pain syndrome. They provide a solid foundation for further studies that will take us beyond the enigma of central pain and more into the reality of definitive pathophysiology and treatment.

MOVEMENT DISORDERS IN CHILDREN: A CLINICAL UPDATE WITH VIDEO RECORDINGS. 2007. Edited by Nardo Nardocci, Emilio Fernandez-Alvarez. Published by John Libbey Eurotext. 192 pages. Price C\$86.

Advanced in our understanding of the pathophysiology of movement disorders in childhood has been increasing at a rapid rate. Yet, there are few good comprehensive up-to-date reference books available for the pediatric neurologist. According to the back cover of the book, this monograph was written to fill this gap.

The book was a multi-authored, edited book with accompanying illustrative DVD. The first five chapters give a general overview of the terminology, seminology, genetics, neurophysiology, imaging and method to quantitatively evaluate the severity of the disorder. The next 12 chapters are disease specific covering topics such as primary dystonia, myoclonic-dystonia, dopa-responsive dystonia, pantothenate kinase deficiency, Sydenham's Chorea, opsoclonus myoclonus, Rett's syndrome, rapid onset juvenile parkinsonism, alternating hemiplegia.

The strength of this monograph lies in the disease specific chapters, particularly the chapters dealing with primary dystonia, dopa-resistant dystonia, Rett's Syndrome and Sydenham's Chorea. These chapters are well written and contain evidence based reviews of the literature intermixed with the author's personal experience.

Although the book was short and concisely written covering the main topics, it was poorly edited- resembling a series of individual papers on the topic rather than a cohesive book. An index and introductory chapter were absent. The quality between chapters varied greatly. Chapters were often based on personal experience