

Book Reviews

MIGRAINE — CLINICAL AND RESEARCH ASPECTS. Edited by J.N. Blau 1987. Published by The Johns Hopkins University Press. 679 pages. \$19.50

Headache is the most common problem seen by neurologists and the majority of patients referred with headache are diagnosed as migraine. Estimates of the prevalence of migraine range up to 30% of the total population, underlining its importance in general medicine as well.

This new volume, by an international group of migraine experts provides a balanced and comprehensive approach to contemporary thinking about the pathophysiology, clinical aspects and management of migraine and cluster headache. In contrast to many such multi-authored volumes, this text is not the published proceedings of a symposium but an attempt to provide a critical and thought-provoking review of the subject from acknowledged authorities.

An interesting feature of the book is the in-depth treatment of historical aspects in two chapters on discarded therapies and discarded theories of pathogenesis as well as a chapter on ". . . the history of thought about migraine from Aretaeus to 1920." Newer investigative methods such as visual evoked potentials, cerebral blood flow studies, pupillographic/pharmacologic studies, MRI and CT imaging are adequately covered. A chapter is devoted to each of the major theories of pathogenesis including the neural hypothesis, disturbance in cranial vascular regulation, disordered amine metabolism, the platelet theory, the allergic hypothesis, and Leao's spreading depression.

Management is discussed in detail with a separate chapter on beta-adrenergic blocking agents for prophylaxis. More controversial aspects of therapy such as biofeedback and the plant *Feverfew* are also given individual chapters. The chapter by Dr. Blau on "A Clinicotherapeutic Approach to Migraine" could be criticised for its cursory mention of amitriptyline for migraine prophylaxis. Many neurologists would consider the tricyclic antidepressants as the first agent to try for migraine prophylaxis, even in non-depressed patients. This point is, however, made in a later chapter on "Psychological Factors in Migraine".

I was also surprised at the omission of a chapter on epilepsy and migraine in a book of this size and scope, a topic of greater clinical relevance and contemporary interest than some others which are represented.

The book is beautifully edited and produced and amply meets its goal of providing a statement of contemporary thinking in the field. I highly recommend this volume as a reference source for all neurologists as well as researchers in the area of migraine.

*A. Guberman
Ottawa, Ontario*

INTEGRATIVE NEUROENDOCRINOLOGY: MOLECULAR, CELLULAR AND CLINICAL ASPECTS. Edited by

S.M. McCann and R.I. Weiner. Published by Karger, Switzerland. 244 pages. \$180Cdn approx.

This compilation of papers and plenary lectures given at the First International Congress of Neuroendocrinology in San Francisco in July of 1986 covers the following topics: Functional Neuroanatomy, Hypothalamic Peptides and the Control of Their Release and Degradation, Peripheral Actions of Brain Peptides, Mechanism of Action of Neuropeptides, Evolution of Brain Peptides, Clinical Neuroendocrinology. The sub-topics in each of these sections are reviewed by individuals with international reputations who work in the area discussed and whose laboratories have made important contributions to knowledge in that particular field.

Little new is presented in the volume, especially since the conference occurred almost two years ago. Rather, each author provides a personal perspective on the work in a particular area. Most of the chapters are well referenced and many conclude with an extensive bibliography.

The majority of the book deals with basic science aspects of Neuroendocrinology (five of the six sections). For the individual approaching the subject with a purely clinical interest, these discussions are likely to be rather more detailed than one would wish and yet they are probably too much of a survey to be of interest to those actually working in the field. I feel that this volume is best suited as an introduction for the graduate student or fellow, approaching the field of Neuroendocrinology for the first time, who wishes an overview of the topics discussed, presented by people with a wealth of experience in that particular field.

The book is printed on high quality paper. The 72 figures and 15 tables which accompany the text are generally complimentary and clear. Unfortunately, the price puts this volume beyond the reach of the very students and fellows for whom it seems best suited. In an ideal world, this book should be available in Health Science libraries; however, with the continued rapid expansion of knowledge in this area and their limited resources, it is uncertain that libraries can afford to invest in symposia which are, to some extent, dated even at the time of publication and have a tendency to go out of date rather rapidly thereafter.

*Paul E. Cooper
London, Ontario*

FOCAL PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHIES. By John D. Stewart. Published by Elsevier Science Publishing Company. 421 pages. \$65Cdn approx.

This clearly written book is a welcome addition to the library of all clinical neurologists, particularly those working with peripheral disorders. The book is easily readable. It is written with a clarity of style often lacking in specialized scientific pub-

lications. Organization is the strongest feature of this book. A large body of scattered information is gathered and presented in a concise fashion. The contents follow a logical pattern. The index and appendix are appropriate. The author is to be congratulated for his frequent inclusion of illustrations and tables which help greatly to clarify the text. He has kept the illustrations simple, yet thorough. Of special note are the well-labelled radiographs; a feature not often found in neurology texts. The extensive reference list following each chapter is highly commendable. Much up-to-date material is included. Controversial areas are fairly discussed; and the reader is provided with a currently accepted approach to these difficult areas. This book is a valuable resource for neurology and neurosurgery residents, electromyography fellows, and their senior colleagues. It should also prove useful to any other physician interested in peripheral nerve problems, including: neurosurgeons, plastic and orthopaedic surgeons. This excellent text is highly recommended.

*Vera Brill
Toronto, Ontario*

FORENSIC NEUROPATHOLOGY. By Jan E. Leestma. Published by Raven Press, New York. 464 pages. \$213Cdn approx.

Neuropathologists are thought by some to lead a rather quiet and contemplative existence, somewhat removed from the real world, and dealing with rare and complex diseases defying both classification or understanding of their causes. This is clearly not the case. Increasingly, the expertise of the neuropathologist has been sought in both criminal and civil courts; head injuries have long been an important issue, and in recent years, there has been an explosion of information about the neuropathology at pre- and post-natal events and of child abuse, which has had great significance in understanding of liability in the circumstance of the handicapped child.

Dr. Leestma is Professor of Pathology and Neurology at the University of Chicago School of Medicine and has had a vast experience in forensic neuropathology. This book, written largely by himself with the assistance of four collaborators is by far the best textbook in forensic neuropathology to appear. The descriptions and illustrations are of high quality, and emphasize particularly those findings likely to be of medical-legal significance in the interpretation of the case. Throughout the book there is wise advice to the pathologist with respect to controversial areas that will be of interest to the courts and could lead the unwary pathologist into difficulty. The chapters on perinatal problems, toxicology and child abuse are particularly informative and will be of great assistance to the pathologist who has had limited experience in these areas.

My only criticism of the book is of the second chapter, in which the author attempts to summarize the naturally occurring diseases of the nervous system in approximately 130 pages. I believe it would have been preferable to omit this chapter, making reference to the more comprehensive descriptions and discussions found in the standard textbooks.

This is an excellent book. It should be available to all pathol-

ogists, neurologists and neurosurgeons participating in medical-legal work.

*David M. Robertson
Kingston, Ontario*

ANEURYSMS AFFECTING THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. By Bryce Weir. Published by Williams & Wilkins. 671 pages.

Dr. Weir's book on Aneurysms Affecting the Nervous System is divided into twelve chapters: history; epidemiology; medical, neurologic, and ophthalmologic aspects of aneurysms; special aneurysms; pathology; physiology and pharmacology of aneurysmal rupture; anatomy; special considerations in surgery; surgery: specific sites and results of series; vasospasm; radiology; anesthesia. There is an author and subject index.

History of aneurysms is covered very thoroughly by Dr. Weir. It is a very worthwhile review of the subject and will be very useful for students and practitioners in neurosurgery.

The chapter on epidemiology reviews the literature thoroughly and covers incidence and prevalence of aneurysms, sex distribution, survival from aneurysm rupture, prognostic factors, grading of aneurysms, long term follow up after aneurysm rupture, timing of surgery and outcome. The literature has been extensively covered, providing the reader with an extremely useful reference.

Chapter 3, covers genetics and associated disease states, and this also is an excellent chapter. The ophthalmologic and medical neurologic aspects are dealt with in detail.

Chapter 4, special aneurysms (nonsaccular and saccular) covers a wide range of subjects and it is dealt with in a very refreshing manner. Techniques for exposure and clipping of aneurysms are included in this chapter. Pathology and pharmacology of aneurysmal rupture are covered in chapters 5 and 6, and chapter 7 covers very thoroughly the anatomy of the cerebral vasculature. Chapter 8, covering special considerations in surgery, deals with all the permutations and combinations that one might encounter having to deal with complex aneurysmal anatomy. Chapter 9 covers the results as well as various types of exposures for specific aneurysms. These are very worthwhile chapters for all concerned in neurosurgery. Chapter 10 is an excellent review of vasospasm, including the author's own expertise on this very difficult subject. Chapters on radiology and anesthesia conclude the book.

This is an excellent book. It approaches the subject differently than other books on aneurysms, and is extremely worthwhile for all those interested in the subject of aneurysms of the nervous system.

*W.M. Lougheed
Toronto, Ontario*

INFECTIONS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM Volume 8. 1987. By Peter G.E. Kennedy and Richard T. Johnson. Published by Butterworths. 284 pages. \$60Cdn approx.

Modern Trends in Neurology was the predecessor to the current Butterworths series. As stated by the editors, the legacy of publishing on subjects of topical interest is maintained.