However, the organization of the information is confusing. For example, blepharospasm is discussed twice, in two nearly identical tables within the same chapter, but nystagmus is not. The discussion of some diseases includes detailed clinical descriptions, while the clinical picture of other neurologic conditions is not described but discussed only in terms of possible causes. The sections on peripheral nerve disorders would have been much clearer and useful with diagrams of the relevant neuroanatomy. There is virtually no information on some common conditions, such as subarachnoid hemorrhage and multiple sclerosis. A number of disease specific neurologic scales are the only content of the chapter on neurorehabilitation, but their utility is not discussed, nor are commonly used scales, such as the Kurtzke EDSS scale, included. This is clearly a very individual compilation, with very few references.

The author wished to make this text a portable, easily available, single source of information. However, the material included is too variable to justify carrying this in one's pocket on the wards. The absence of any information regarding diagnostic testing, therapeutics and management also limit its usefulness to junior trainees. In the year 2001, most hospitals have computerized information sources easily available to clinicians, and the breadth and depth of evidence-based information and resources in neuroscience through those sources easily outstrips that available in this slim text.

A junior trainee would be best served by generating their own summaries and tables while studying from more inclusive texts. For the practicing clinician, this text does not contain enough information, or organize it well enough, to justify its addition to a crowded bookshelf.

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Behavior and Mood Disorders in Focal Brain Lesions. 2000. Edited by Julien Bogousslavsky and Jeffrey L. Cummings. Published by Cambridge University Press. 554 pages. C$117.60 approx.

Behavior and Mood Disorders in Focal Brain Lesions is an overview of the emotional and behavioral consequences that occur not only with discreet brain lesions (as the title may suggest) but also specific neurological diseases including epilepsy and neurodegenerative diseases. The true emphasis and strengths of the book are on the correlations between anatomy and the neuropsychiatric symptoms.

The first chapter takes on the daunting task of synthesizing available knowledge. The chapter dissects Jeffrey Cummings' theory of brain as it involves mood and cognition as described in instrumental, fundamental or executive syndromes. Each encompasses different aspects of mood and behavior including cognitive, neurobiological, anatomical and neurochemical substrates. The rest of the book fills in the details, usually from two viewpoints. For the behaviorist or psychiatrist who begins with a set of specific symptoms or clinical features, reviewing the appropriate chapter will help identify which anatomical areas and central nervous systems diseases are associated with the symptoms of interest. For those starting with a known lesion or anatomical dysfunction, for example the basal ganglia, a review of this chapter describes possible cognitive and mood disorders associated with these areas of the CNS. There are several introductory chapters addressing some methodological issues inherent to the study and evaluation of mood and behavior on a practical level. The chapters include working definitions of terminology, an excellent critical appraisal of the scales used to measure these features, and other technical considerations probably more relevant to the clinical researcher than the practising clinician.

The remaining chapters vary in depth and organization with clear overlap between chapters exploring each syndrome from either end. In a cover-to-cover read, there is considerable repetition. For example, the frontal-subcortical connections are reviewed in chapters 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11. However, possibly because of the perspective of individual authors, some pertinent references are omitted in some discussions, but included in others.

Chapter 6, dealing with mood and behavior in disorders of the basal ganglia, is particularly strong as an independent, comprehensive review from both the perspective of disease and anatomy. Chapter 17 on anosognosia is another good chapter that approaches specific agnostic syndromes with emphasis on behavioral, anatomical, symptomatic associations and experimental studies and finishes with possible mechanisms that give the reader a complete perspective.

Most of the references are from the 1980s and early 1990s when CT and MRI began systematically to confirm and identify lesion location and behavioral correlates. There are only a few references made to the use of functional neuroimaging, particularly fMRI or PETthat illustrate how a given lesion affects the neural systems that underlie clinical states. While several authors mention the inadequacy of studying acute focal lesions in isolation, this critical issue inherent in all attempts at structure-function correlation was unevenly addressed throughout the text. Clinical cases comprise the main substance of some chapters. This format serves more to illustrate structure-function relationships, rather than to unravel the associations. Those hoping to read a more experimentally driven model of behavior with lesion studies as a foundation will be disappointed but nonetheless intrigued.

Medical students, residents and clinicians seeking to generate a broad differential diagnosis for specific psychiatric disturbances, particularly those that accompany neurological diseases, will find having this book useful as a reference. No matter if you start with the "where the lesions is" or "what the lesion is" approach, you will be able to find a quick and useful review of the relationship between these two clinical questions. For those with more theoretical interests of the complexities of neural systems underlying mood and behavior, this text provides a good beginning.

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Merritt's Neurology. 10th Edition. 2000. Edited by Lewis P. Rowland. Published by Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins, New York. 1002 pages. C$130.00 approx.

This new general textbook of neurology is intended for medical students, house officers, practising neurologists, non-neurologist clinicians, nurses, and other health care workers. It attempts to provide the essential facts about neurological conditions that are likely to be encountered. It succeeds admirably well in this task.

The table of contents is divided into 25 sections, starting with