

Books Received

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS: CONCEPTS IN PATHOGENESIS AND ETIOLOGY. 1990. Edited by Arthur J. Hudson. Published by University of Toronto Press. 378 pages. \$75 Cdn.

CHEMICAL SENSES, VOLUME 2: IRRITATION. 1990. Edited by Barry S. Green, J. Russell Mason and Morely R. Kare. Published by Marcel Dekker, Inc. 384 pages. \$115 Cdn. approx.

GREAT MEN WITH SICK BRAINS & OTHER ESSAYS. 1990. By Bengt Ljunggren. Published by American Association of Neurological Surgeons. 130 pages. \$40 Cdn. approx.

HANDBOOK OF CAROTID ARTERY SURGERY: FACTS AND FIGURES. 1989. By Norman Rosenberg. Published by CRC Press, Inc. 284 pages. \$169 Cdn. approx.

INFORMATION PROCESSING IN MAMMALIAN AUDITORY AND TACTILE SYSTEMS. Edited by Mark Rowe, Lindsay Aitkin. Published by Alan R. Liss Inc. 312 pages. \$91 Cdn. approx.

MRI: ATLAS OF THE BRAIN. By William G. Bradley & Graeme Bydder. Published by Raven Press.

NEUROLOGICAL COMPLICATIONS OF RENAL DISEASE. 1990. By Charles F. Bolton & G. Bryan Young. Published by Butterworths. 256 pages. \$75 Cdn. approx.

NEUROLOGY: A CONCISE CLINICAL TEXT. 1989. By Michael Swash, Martin S. Schwartz. Published by W.B. Saunders. 400 pages. \$39 Cdn.

NEUROPATHOLOGY OF AIDS. 1990. By Harry V. Vinters, Karl H. Anders. Published by CRC Press, Inc. 229 pages.

PAIN IN CHILDREN: NATURE, ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT. By Patricia A. McGrath. Published by Guilford Press. 420 pages. \$52 Cdn. approx.

SPINAL DISORDERS IN THE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT. STATE OF THE ART REVIEWS. 1990. Edited by John D. Hsu. Published by Hanley & Belfus, Inc. 257 pages. \$40 Cdn. approx.

THE VENTRICLE OF MEMORY: PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF SOME NEUROLOGISTS. 1990. By Macdonald Critchley. Published by Raven Press. 223 pages. \$45 Cdn. approx.

THERAPY OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE. NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE AND THERAPY SERIES; VOLUME 5. 1990. Edited by William C. Koller, George Paulson. Published by Marcel Dekker, Inc. 608 pages. \$144 Cdn. approx.

Book Reviews

THE CSF PROTEINS: A BIOCHEMICAL APPROACH. 1988. By Edward J. Thompson. Published by Elsevier Science Publishers. 229 pages.

The author of this interesting monograph is a clinical chemist at the National Hospital for Nervous Disease, Queen Square. He has had an extraordinary experience with CSF studies apparently encompassing some 25,000 samples. It is stated that this book's main thrust is to put forward two hypotheses based on this data, mainly that there are multiple barriers for CSF proteins and that logarithmic models give a better fit to the quantitative analysis of immunoglobulin data.

The book's focus is remarkably narrow and it is clear that when the author ventures outside his experience with CSF clinical chemistry, he runs into difficulty. Although tables suggesting clinical action on the basis of isolated CSF results are well-meaning few clinicians would base the decision on therapy on the results of CSF immunoglobulin studies. Furthermore, comments about prognosis as they relate to these results are similar of very little value.

This book's main value lies in its relatively comprehensive review of the literature on most aspects of CSF although much

of the original material in it would be of interest only to a selected few researchers who work on CSF. The book would be suitable for institutional libraries as a reference source.

*G.C. Ebers,
London, Ontario*

HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE: A DISORDER OF FAMILIES. By Susan E. Folstein. Published by The John Hopkins University Press. \$46 Cdn approx.

In the Preface of the book, the author states that her aim is to "communicate current knowledge about Huntington's disease, including clinical care, clinical research and basic research". The audience is intended to include clinicians and researchers *beginning* work on Huntington's disease and as such, all chapters may not be equally relevant to all readers.

The author clearly meets her objectives. The book provides a good overview of our current knowledge of Huntington's disease and is divided into the following major sections: Clinical Features, Basic and Clinical Research, Diagnostic Issues and

Patient Care. There are also 5 Appendices: Clinical Assessment Instruments, DSMIII-R Criteria for Relevant Psychiatric Disorders, Genealogic Strategies, Service Organizations and Agencies and Genetic Issues. In addition, a comprehensive reference list is provided.

In general, each section is clearly written. Each chapter begins with a quotation from Huntington's report from 1872 and also includes a relevant case report. Most specialized terms are defined, for example "founder effect" and "dyskinesia". The section on Neuroscience is particularly well-prepared for the novice as the normal anatomy, chemistry and function of the basal ganglia are initially described before discussing the changes in Huntington's disease. The appendix listing service organizations includes those in many countries and so is relevant to readers worldwide.

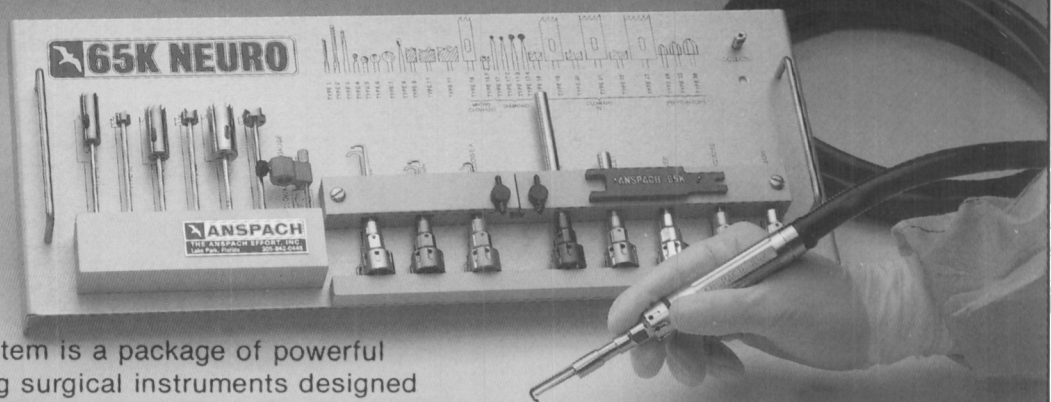
One criticism is the author's frequent use of abbreviations. Although most of these are defined when they first appear in the text, this is not always the case. For example, "MIS" which

appears in Figure 2.1 is not defined until Figure 2.4. In reading the text, a reader previously unfamiliar with the abbreviations can tend to become confused when presented with several within one sentence or paragraph. It would therefore have been preferable, given the anticipated readership, to limit the use of abbreviations.

In summary, the book meets its goal. It is recommended to the clinician or researcher *beginning* work in Huntington's disease. While an experienced clinician or researcher would probably not learn new information from the book, such a person may benefit by having the book available as a reference for students and colleagues new to the area of Huntington's disease. The price of \$46 Cdn. is relatively inexpensive and therefore the book is accessible to most interested individuals.

A.D. Sadovnick,
Vancouver, B.C.

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