**CONGENITAL HEMIPLEGIA.** 2000. Edited by Brian Neville and Robert Goodman. Published by Cambridge University Press. 216 pages. CS$89.92 approx.

Congenital hemiplegia, a condition usually diagnosed in relatively early childhood, has been, over the years, and with developing technology, associated with a myriad of etiological factors. These factors can be prenatal or perinatal and while the clinical manifestations and their management may be relatively similar, the actual underlying disease may be as different as perinatal asphyxia, cortical migration disorder/schizencephaly or Sturge-Weber syndrome, to name a few.

In this book, the editors first successfully organize “congenital hemiplegia”, a term initially used in the pre-scan era, into a systematic classification based on clinical, neuro-pathological and MRI-based evidence. This is a major feat. They next address the clinical presentation and physical assessment of children outlining particular “gems” in the physical examination of such patients.

A substantial amount of the remaining chapters cover the therapeutic management of consequences of this condition, paying attention initially to orthopedic issues related to gait and the analysis of the particular pattern of dysfunction at the level of the affected lower extremity. Again, several key points relating to the examination of such patients and to the management options are brought out. They also cover upper extremity involvement and the management of epilepsy syndromes, which are a frequent consequence of congenital hemiplegia usually declaring themselves within the first few years of life. The last few chapters cover the management of emotional, social and educational issues for these children. This is also important because, as the authors point out, most children adapt well to their condition but none are cured of their deficits.

As a Pediatric Neurosurgeon interested in the management of cerebral palsy and spasticity as well as epilepsy, this book looks at a relatively generous group of conditions under the hat of congenital hemiplegia. The book is rich in modern imaging and modern pathological classifications. It provides very helpful management information to the pediatric neurologist, pediatric neurosurgeon, pediatric orthopedist and physiatrist. It is also a very good reference text for psychologists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists dealing with these conditions. I would recommend it strongly for health professionals actively dealing with children with congenital neurological ailments from both the diagnostic and therapeutic ends. It may not be the best reference for the medical student starting to learn child neurology because it deals superficially with several very different diseases under the “umbrella” of congenital hemiplegia.

In summary, this is an excellent monograph which highlights the many advances that have been made in understanding, diagnosis and management of peripheral nerve disease in the past decade. When asked by neurology residents or non-subspecialist colleagues what single book they should read cover to cover on the topic of peripheral neuropathy, I will indicate that this is the one.


There are some books that one would expect to find on the shelves of medical school and hospital libraries. This volume should be one of those. Physicians and others experienced in the care of individuals with dementia will appreciate how relevant each and every chapter is to the day-to-day management of these disorders.

Our knowledge of the biological substrates of Alzheimer’s disease and of approaches to the clinical management of the disorder has expanded rapidly. The treatment of the topic in this volume is unexcelled in its clarity of exposition and in bringing information of clinical relevance from diverse fields of study to the forefront.

The volume is organized in seven sections including introductory chapters touching on pathophysiology, diagnosis, natural history,