

Unfortunately, when it comes to neurological disease, Cochrane reviews remain rather few in number.

Despite these short-comings, I believe that the volume does have its place. Many of the chapters are very useful summaries of the present literature and they do provide the practising clinician with the “clinical biases” of individuals with a wealth of clinical experience in their area of particular expertise. Therefore, I can recommend this volume for inclusion in a neurological library where it can be referred to from time to time but I cannot recommend it for purchase by the individual clinical neurologist or neurosurgeon.

*Paul E. Cooper
London, Ontario*

COLOR ATLAS OF MICRONEUROSURGERY, VOLUME 3. Second Edition. 2000. By Robert F. Spetzler, Wolfgang T. Koos. Published by Thieme, New York. 488 pages. C\$ 433.55 approx.

This is the third volume in the revised and expanded second edition of Color Atlas of Microneurosurgery. Together, the three volume series covers all aspects of intracranial and intraspinal microsurgery. The focus of the third volume is intra- and extracranial revascularization and intraspinal pathology.

The first chapter of the book reviews relevant cerebrovascular and spinal anatomy. The anatomical figures are of high quality and accompanied by line drawings for reference. Chapter 2, dealing with surgical approaches, includes information on operating room setup and patient positioning. Specific approaches for cranial revascularization and managing intraspinal pathology are described and illustrated.

The remaining chapters cover a broad spectrum of clinical material. Chapters 3 and 4 focus on techniques for cranial revascularization rather than on particular types of pathology. Chapter 3 illustrates the use of bypasses and reconstructions to achieve revascularization for a variety of indications. Chapter 4 covers extracranial and intracranial endarterectomies of the anterior and posterior circulations. Each procedure is presented as a series of color intra-operative photographs as well as line drawings. In addition, examples of cases in which endovascular methods were used are presented. The book does not deal with the technical aspects of endovascular therapy, nor is there any discussion about why certain cases were treated surgically or with endovascular approaches.

Chapters 5 and 6 are organized around spinal pathology. Chapter 5 deals with spinal tumors, beginning with extra-spinal lesions and then with intraspinal extradural, intradural extramedullary, and intramedullary lesions. Within each category, cases are sequentially presented covering the entire spine from cervical to thoracolumbar levels. Chapter 6 is devoted to spinal vascular malformations. It begins with cavernous malformations, followed by arteriovenous fistulae and malformations.

The text is beautifully illustrated and of high quality. For each case presented, schematic illustrations of the orientation of the lesion and patient positioning provide helpful pointers. The strength of the book is undoubtedly in the visual presentation of anatomical and surgical detail. There are 1859 illustrations, most in color. As in other volumes of this series, discussion of issues related to diagnosis, indications, efficacy, and outcome have been omitted.

This is a specialized, highly clinical book that will be of value to

residents and practicing neurosurgeons with subspecialty interest in the topics covered. It does not provide enough detail to stand alone as a reference, but provides a state-of-the-art overview of microsurgical techniques.

*Gary Redekop
Vancouver, British Columbia*

NEUROSTEROIDS. A NEW REGULATOR FUNCTION IN THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. 1999. Edited by Etienne-Emile Baulieu, Paul Robel, Michael Schumacher. Published by Humana Press. 378 pages. \$C 189.00 approx.

This volume is No. 16 in the Contemporary Endocrinology series edited by P. Michael Conn. Each of its 20 chapters is written by a different author or group of authors. Unlike many monographs of this type, the editors have recruited experts in the field not only from their country – France, but also from across Europe, Canada and the United States. The chapters cover a variety of selected topics. There is an excellent introductory chapter by the editors that provides an overview of the biochemistry and physiopathologic function of steroids in the nervous system. This chapter, by itself, would be an excellent introduction to the field for residents and fellows who are reviewing basic science topics. Other chapters cover specific areas such as the effect of steroids on GABAergic neurotransmission, their effect on a variety of receptors, and the modulatory effect of steroids on voltage-gated calcium channels. There is a chapter that deals with behavioural effects and the final chapter reviews the neuropsychopharmacological potential of neurosteroids.

The volume is laid out nicely. Illustrations and tables are clear and complement the text. The supporting references are current and comprehensive but unfortunately the editors have chosen to list them in the order in which they are used in each chapter, making it difficult to go back and find a particular reference based on knowledge of the first author.

This monograph deals with the subject of neurosteroids with an emphasis on the basic science. Of necessity, the majority of the research cited comes from the animal literature and much of the application to humans must be extrapolated. This means there is very little in this book for the practising clinician. It is suited much more to the basic or clinical scientist working in this field who is seeking an excellent overview of the area. Those looking to generate research hypotheses likely would find the volume invaluable as a background source and a window into the current literature. The limited nature of the book’s audience is reflected in the rather high price for a volume. This, and the fact that it is likely to become dated rather quickly and that practising clinicians are unlikely to consult it even on an occasional basis, make me unable to recommend it for purchase by a hospital library.

*Paul E. Cooper
London, Ontario*

NEUROLOGY OF EYE MOVEMENTS, 3RD EDITION. 1999. Contemporary Neurology Series. Oxford University Press, New York. 643 pages. C\$268.80 approx

The third edition of this text expands the previous one, adding functional imaging of cortical eye fields in humans, three

dimensional control of eye movements, and aspects of treatment of nystagmus and updating concepts of the operations of different classes of eye movements. Also new to this edition is a CD-ROM that provides figures, tables, and over 60 videos referenced to the text. The CD-ROM also contains the text so that readers can peruse it on their computer screen or absorb it in the conventional paper format in an armchair. Aficionados of standard text may prefer the print layout edition, but the CD-ROM affords the ability to jump from physiology to a cross-referenced clinical section and back again at the click of a mouse. Short video clips are particularly helpful to the chapter on central eye movement disorders. However, the full text CD-ROM version fills only a third of the screen and is not comfortable to read.

The text is divided into two parts. Part I deals with the physiology of eye movement systems and provides a comprehensive discussion relevant to physiologists, but also pertinent to clinicians who will find it helpful and in some instances necessary to understanding Part II. Moreover this section discusses both clinical and laboratory methods of eye movement examination. Each chapter contains a summary that is an extremely helpful learning tool.

The second part comprises about half of the book and covers peripheral palsies and strabismus, beginning with anatomical and physiological aspects of the orbit, muscles and peripheral nerves. Then central eye movement disorders are discussed.

The book is extensively referenced and up-to-date. The authors have built on the strength of the two prior editions to make this the most comprehensive, current and useful textbook available on eye movements. Fundamental and clinical neuroscientists as well as practicing neurologists will find the *Neurology of Eye Movements* ideal as a reference source and a pleasure to read as a learning medium. The videos and figures on the CD-ROM will bring the text to life on their desks.

James A. Sharpe
Toronto, Ontario

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE – STATE OF THE ART. 1999. Edited by H. Przuntek, T. Muller. Published by Springer Wien New York. 220. C\$166.60 approx.

Diagnosis and Treatment of Parkinson's Disease – State of the Art is the collection of papers from a 1997 workshop of the same title in Budapest, Hungary. The authors are experts in the field, both clinicians and basic scientists. As it represents the topics under discussion at the meeting, this book does not cover all aspects of diagnosis and treatment. It focuses on current theories of Parkinson's disease pathophysiology and etiology with comprehensive discussions of candidate genes, possible environmental factors and the role of oxidative stress. Pathological correlates of the main clinical features of Parkinson's disease are discussed in detail.

Regarding treatment, there is a clear and well-organized discussion of pharmacologic strategies for managing advanced Parkinson's disease. Other papers are highly specialized, with extensive coverage of the putative mechanisms and efficacy of bupropion as a novel antiparkinson agent. Potential ways of controlling oxidative damage are also thoroughly covered.

Surprisingly, intermixed are useful reviews on multiple system

atrophy and the differential diagnosis and phenomenology of tremor.

The majority of this text provides very specialized information which is best suited to experts in movement disorders who have a strong research interest, particularly basic science research. The papers are thorough presentations of their individual topics and are supplemented by extensive referencing. Inevitably, advances in the field since 1997 are not included in the text. However, the vast majority of the information included is still topical and relevant to today's research.

Connie Marras
Toronto, Ontario

PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND MOVEMENT DISORDERS. DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE PRACTICING PHYSICIAN. 2000. Edited by Charles H. Adler, J. Eric Ahlskog. Published by Humana Press. 480 pages. C\$187.00 approx.

This text discusses all of the common and most of the uncommon movement disorders in a well-organized fashion. It covers, as the name suggests, clinical features, diagnostic testing and treatment and does not attempt to comprehensively discuss other aspects of the disorders such as pathology, pathophysiology or epidemiology. Mention is made of important points in these areas for the more common disorders, however. Functional neuroimaging of movement disorders is not covered in detail, but diagnostic techniques routinely used in clinical practice are discussed reliably.

Parkinson's disease is covered in greatest detail. A comprehensive discussion of clinical features, differential diagnosis and treatment are discussed for early and advanced disease, including the latest advances in surgical treatments and transplantation. For most of the other movement disorders a phenomenological approach is taken, which allows for a unified discussion of the approach to diagnosis of most clinical syndromes encountered in movement disorder practice. Treatment options are described explicitly, with clear recommendations on which approaches are likely to be most useful. The authors and editors are careful to make the discussions internationally relevant, with mention of treatments available either in Europe or North America. Useful tables are provided to aid quick reference in diagnosis and treatment. The editors and many of the chapter authors are internationally known in the field of movement disorders and are well-qualified to provide these reviews.

The writing is clear and concise. There is little redundancy and excellent cross-referencing between chapters for ease of information retrieval. Useful general references are provided at the end of each chapter; there is not extensive referencing of specific information provided in the discussions.

This book is best suited to general neurologists with an interest in treating movement disorders, or for fellows training in movement disorders. It does not assume prior knowledge, and provides a detailed and logical approach to the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of all of the common movement disorders from the most basic of principles to more sophisticated points.

Connie Marras
Toronto, Ontario