high level work, and for their effort to integrate it with an excellent introduction, comments on each section and summary. This is an enjoyable and current text in an important area, which can be read by the novice and expert alike. It provides useful references in addition to serving as an important educational resource.

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THE NEUROPATHOLOGY OF DEMENTIA. 1997. Edited by Margaret M. Esiri and James H. Morris. Published by Cambridge University Press. 440 pages. $C120.

In the past decade, general neuropathology texts, whether new or more recent editions of established ones, reflect the expanding information contained in them. This has resulted in an increase in size to ensure slimness, an increase in thickness that surely challenges bookbinders, or the inevitable move to multiple volumes. Rapidly expanding knowledge in the field of the chronic neurodegenerative diseases, and in particular dementia, seldom allows such texts to cover the subject as one might wish: the careful integration of clinical aberration with functional anatomy, appropriate neuropathologic illustrations, considered sublimation of the current diagnostic criteria and aetiology, and a practical approach that allows the anatomical pathologist or neuropathologist to arrive at a specific diagnosis.

The Neuropathology of Dementia edited by Margaret Esiri and James Morris addresses the dementias in just this way. This work consists of 19 chapters and 3 appendices and will appeal to a wide audience. An immediate attraction is the seamless way in which it is constructed and the way the chapters are integrated and cross-referenced. This I attribute to the fact that the two editors, who are experienced in this field, are author or co-author of 11 of the 19 chapters and 2 of the 3 appendices. The book begins with the definition and anatomical basis of dementia, then introduces a practical approach to its study, followed by an in depth treatise on specific disorders. In fact, what makes this book particularly attractive is this practical approach that is a persistent thread throughout, whether it is the clinical pathological correlation, recognition of the classical gross and microscopic pathology or the application of judicious immunohistochemistry. As might be expected, much of the book deals with the more common primary diseases that cause dementia, though the less common ones and secondary causes of dementia are well documented.

In any pathology text, illustrations are extremely important. Here, the illustrations are numerous, both black and white and colour, and in general provide good definition. Frequent use of control gross and microscopic illustrations is appropriate and supports the practical approach. Of particular interest to the pathologist are appendices that offer information on prion protein testing, morphometric analysis, brain banks and required laboratory safety standards in the study of the dementias. Seminal references are provided up to 1996, and the index is well organized. As with any new text, a few minor editorial errors are evident, but do not detract from the quality of this text.

I have every expectation that this book will become one of the classic specialized texts in neuropathology, and the authors and their contributors are to be congratulated. I recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the dementias, and in particular, the undergraduate and postgraduate trainee, the physician and basic neuroscientist, the anatomical pathologist and the neuropathologist. For those knowledgeable in this field, this book will be a useful addition to their library, as it is broad in scope, detailed and well balanced.

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INTRA-OPERATIVE DIAGNOSIS OF CNS TUMOURS. 1997. By T.H. Moss, J.A.R. Nicoll, J.W. Ironside. Published by Oxford University Press Canada. 193 pages. $C285.

With increasing popularity of smear cytology for intraoperative diagnosis of CNS tumors, this extensively illustrated text is most timely as a companion guide to the practicing neuropathologist and surgical pathologist. The book has 193 pages and covers the complete spectrum of tumors and reactive processes that present diagnostic challenges in neuropathology. Most of all, with its easy-to-read style and ample illustrations, this text is highly recommended not only for pathologists, but also for neurosurgeons and neuroradiologists.

This text will serve as an invaluable practical bench reference for pathologists at all levels of experience. Particularly helpful are practical tips on specimen handling, smear preparation, and most importantly, a well illustrated discussion of what normal and reactive tissues look like when smeared. The illustrations are uniformly of outstanding quality and a comparison with frozen section appearances is provided in almost each instance.

This text is not merely an assortment of pictures, rather, it presents a succinct review of the clinical and radiographic features of each lesion along with its histopathological appearances. The advantages of smears are highlighted as are the disadvantages and limitations, and situations where smear technique may be inadequate for diagnosis are clearly outlined. Throughout the text, the importance of knowledge of clinical circumstances and radiological features for accurate diagnosis is emphasized. Common artifacts are well illustrated.

In summary, this reviewer finds this text to be well written and illustrated and a helpful guide to neuropathologists, surgical pathologists, neurosurgeons and neuroradiologists. This reference will be a valuable addition to the library of anyone interested in CNS tumors, pathologists and non-pathologists alike.

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NEUROFIBROMATOSIS TYPE I IN CHILDHOOD. 1997. By Katherine North. Published by Mac Keith Press for the International Child Neurology Association. 132 pages. $C62.34.

This book is a review of clinical, laboratory, and genetic features of Neurofibromatosis I (NF-I). The core of the material is a detailed description of findings in a group of 200 NF-I patients whom have been followed at a Neurofibromatosis Clinic in Australia. These data are compared with the results published from other clinics worldwide.

Chapter One reviews the historical perspective of Neuofibromatosis leading up to the modern discoveries of the molecular biology of the NF-I gene. Neurofibromin is the protein encoded

by the NF-I gene and affects cell growth, differentiation and tumor suppression. Its relevance to the clinical symptoms of NF-I are discussed in excellent detail in Chapter Two. The clinical manifestations, diagnostic criteria, and significance of isolated cutaneous abnormalities in NF-I are reviewed. The main focus of the monograph is on childhood NF-I, but the evolution of these signs into adulthood helps put them in clinical context.

In addition to café-au-lait spots, the most common associated symptoms in NF-I are learning disabilities. The detailed neuropsychological investigations performed on the children with NF-I demonstrate the high frequency and nature of these disorders. However, I was disappointed in the limited discussion on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder syndrome.

One of the most dramatic findings described in children with neurofibromatosis are the unidentified bright objects (UBOs) which are seen on MRI T2 weighted images. These abnormalities are discussed in a detailed chapter and correlated with neuropsychological studies. Although their patients demonstrated a positive correlation with lower IQ scores and UBOs on T2 weighted images, review of the literature has not revealed a consistant relationship.

One of the most controversial topics in assessing asymptomatic patients with NF-I is the extent of clinical investigations to be performed such as MRIs, VERs, and audiograms. Of specific concern is the risk and management of optic pathway gliomas. The debate about prophylactic use of clinical investigations in NF-I patients is discussed in an appropriate fashion throughout the monograph.

Unfortunately, the book lacks a summary chapter to summarize and correlate the clinical and laboratory features. This would aid pediatricians or pediatric neurologists who do not have the opportunity to see many patients with neurofibromatosis. A decision tree approach to specific symptoms would be helpful. There is an Appendix which provides a patient information sheet, data collection forms, and questionnaires which other neurofibromatosis clinics might find useful.

This brief book provides much useful data describing the clinical spectrum of childhood neurofibromatosis. The reader will be better informed as to the manifestations of the disorder and approach to specific complications.

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