This book addresses the knowledge gained in a five year span between two conferences held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The most recent conference was entitled “Progress in Neuropsychological Rehabilitation”. The chapters are written by many different individual authors. The editors, Anne-Lise Christensen and Barbara P. Uzzel, work in rehabilitation centres based in Denmark and the United States respectively.

The initial chapter focuses on changes in the approach to rehabilitation of the brain injured individual. The increased use of treatment in groups as well as increased family involvement is noted. There is also a review of cognitive remediation. There then follows a review of the physiology and related pharmacology that occurs following brain injury. This is a very comprehensive review and includes treatment relevance at both a cellular and subsequently a clinical level.

The book continues with a number of chapters that have a narrower area of focus. Examples include aspects of brain imaging techniques, behavioral monitoring, cognitive training methods, use of computers in aphasia rehabilitation, and psychosocial functioning.

A significant portion of the book addresses outcome and its measurement as well as the economics involved with brain injury. There are separate chapters pertaining to Denmark and the United States. However, even in the preceding clinical chapters there is an ongoing awareness of outcomes to assess treatment effectiveness and cost efficiency.

Portions of the book would be of interest to anyone who is involved to a significant degree in the rehabilitation of individuals who have sustained brain injuries. Other portions are fairly narrow in scope and will appeal more to specific disciplines. Overall it is quite well written and reasonably priced.

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SPATIAL VISION IN HUMANS AND ROBOTS. 1993. 1st Edition. Edited by Laurence Harris and Michael Jenkin. Published by Cambridge University Press. 443 pages. £C78.00

When I first cracked this book, it fell open to a page half-filled with equations. My immediate thought was that this was one of those works which should not be read by neurologists while operating heavy machinery. Unfortunately, although the work does have some truly interesting sections, that opinion still holds in general.

The book is the child of a conference held at York University in 1991. It shares the problems of all such compilations, being a little dated already and choppily uneven in style, quality and comprehensibility. The focus of the conference was broad, encompassing such diverse topics as cycloverson, attention, texture, colour, and a slew of computer vision models. Some readers will consider this eclectic mix unfocused but others may find the “bits and bytes” approach refreshing. The variety of papers is even broader than that found in most collections, since the conference aimed to mingle workers in human and computer vision, with hopes of cross-fertilization. For myself, this meant that the book was divided into those papers which I understood and those which I did not. Many computational works were difficult to grasp, so much so that the exceptions like Jepson and Richards’ “What makes a good feature?” stand out. On the other hand, it was comforting to run across familiar psychophysical and physiologic ground like Wilson’s section on non-linear processes, Regan’s work on motion and texture-defined form, and Allman and Zucker’s discussion on cytochrome oxidase blobs. However, much of this work can be found elsewhere: I gained