

This book is divided into three sections. Part I contains a comprehensive review of fundamental theories of memory, an extensive investigation of the literature on depression and memory, and the underpinnings or neuropsychology of memory followed by an examination of the concept of metamemory. In particular, chapter one by Berrios takes the reader on a delightful romp through the ages while reviewing the qualitative and conceptual aspects of memory complaints and disorders. In a refreshing style, Coull and Sahakian provide a practical and informative chapter on the psychopharmacology of memory, which, rather than summarizing the literature, raises the reader's awareness of the contradictions in research on the neurochemical basis of memory and attention. They also provided suggestions and supported ideas for future research and investigations.

Part II focuses on the clinical, or more commonly described psychiatric memory disorders, e.g. the dementias, the amnesic syndrome and depressive pseudodementia. Initially, Hodges, Berrios and Breen provide detail on the origins, principles and organization of the Cambridge Memory Clinic. This serves to outline their multidisciplinary approach (bringing together behavioural neurology, neuropsychiatry and neuropsychology) toward accurate diagnosis and successful treatment of patients with both functional and organic memory disorders, arguing strongly for integrated clinical services. There are other thought provoking chapters on emerging ideas on memory impairments in functional psychosis (e.g. schizophrenia), cleverly weighing the evidence on "structural" or "functional" abnormalities, with references to research supporting how specific memory impairments would be explained by each opposing theory.

Part III examines a wide range of "memory complaints" which often confront clinicians in day-to-day clinical practice, this range from Déjà vu and flashback memories, hypochondria and dissociative amnesia, to malingering and the medical-legal aspects of memory disorders. A historical review often prefaces each chapter and provides the reader with a helpful reference point and clear understanding of the development of the clinical diagnosis of each "disorder". It is suggested by Marková and Berrios, in their chapter on paramnesias and delusions of memory, that the concept of memory needs to be expanded from the narrow definition readily accepted since the turn of the century, to one which revisits the phenomena often presented by patients, by going beyond the 'symptoms' described in known nosologies, and exploring new phenomenological markers. Lamb and Prigatona provide a comprehensive and clinically practical useful chapter on tests and techniques for detecting and measuring malingering. To illustrate these techniques, the authors provided four case studies and led the reader through the interpretation and resulting diagnosis for each patient. They correctly caution against the prevailing risk of misdiagnosis, stressing the necessity of clinical judgement to be based on "objective, scientifically derived measures interpreted by experienced clinical neuropsychologists". The final chapter by Solomka and Grounds offers an important primer on how to prepare court reports for the patient involved in compensation litigation, with a detailed outline of the fundamentals involved in describing the impairments in all necessary domains, e.g. psychological, functional and daily living. Although it is clearly understood that legal implications, formats and court proceedings are unique to each country, this outline provides a constructive foundation for the clinician preparing medical-legal reports.

Memory Disorders in Psychiatric Practice is written in an easy narrative style that is a pleasure to read. The only minor shortcoming of this practical text is a somewhat excessive emphasis on the historical background at the beginning of each chapter. This book is a useful addition to the literature for psychiatrists and neuropsychologists, and other mental health care professionals working with patients with memory complaints. While comprehensively informing the reader about the complexities of memory disorders, it provides a useful reference source for various aspects of memory theory, classification, assessment and treatment. The footnotes at the end of the volume further expand the reader's understanding of concepts and terminology, and add greater depth to the expansive literature review each author conducted. This book will be of great benefit to the graduate level student, resident, neuropsychologist and psychiatrists who are in need of a definitive text on disorders of memory.

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PROGNOSIS OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS. Second Edition. 2000. Edited by Randolph W. Evans, David S. Baskin, Frank M. Yatsu. Published by Oxford University Press Canada. 758 pages. C\$159.00 approx.

In their preface to the first edition of this volume the editors state: "This book is a practical guide for the neurologist and the neurosurgeon that can be used on a daily basis as a reference source when discussing prognosis with patients and their families, colleagues, and other interested parties." The book is divided into 12 parts. It begins with five chapters that cover *Issues in Prognosis* from an ethical, psychological, medical-legal, clinical and economic perspective. While interesting and well-written, this section is rather dry and is not an "easy read". The remaining parts cover a variety of neurological and neurosurgical conditions, divided primarily along etiological lines, following the usual congenital, infectious, inflammatory, etc. type of classification.

Unfortunately, in my opinion, the editors' stated aim is not met. The manner in which the authors of the individual chapters have approached their review is not stated. We do not know if a systematic approach was used in searching the literature and while much literature is cited, often there is not a summarising conclusion at the end that would be helpful to the clinician. In any particular chapter, it is often difficult to find relevant prognostic information. For example, if I were seeing a patient with a whiplash type of injury and I consulted the chapter on this condition, it is almost impossible to use the data to provide a prognostic statement to my patient without combing through the chapter and extracting information from the numerous studies cited. In other chapters, the scope of the prognostic statements is very narrow. For instance, the chapter on primary headache disorders devotes thirteen of its fourteen pages to a review of headache definition and epidemiology but only part of one page is given over to treatment and prognostic statements and the statements on prognosis refer only to analgesic rebound headache. Here once again, while the authors cite fourteen papers on prognosis, they do not comment on whether this is a comprehensive list or how these papers were selected and they do not comment on the quality of the individual papers. When available, the Cochrane Library provides a much more organised and evidence-based review.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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