

MMPI family but it is probably the case that much more work has been published with the latter. One would like to see more discussion of specific scales dealing with anxiety, sickness impact and quality of life as well as with activities of daily living (ADL) in a neuropsychological context. However, all of these variables are mentioned with appropriate references and it is again a question of the judgment of the authors as to what instruments are most often used in regular clinical practice that has guided their choices. They do admit that individual cases may merit the use of additional or alternate tests. One caveat with regard to the use of behavioural checklists could have been offered. That is that while checklists may suggest symptoms to certain patients (e.g., danger of over-endorsement either as a wish to be overly compliant with the clinician, or for factitious reasons), open-ended clinical interviews may fail to reveal symptoms (e.g., due to lack of insight, poor judgment, or poor memory). These factors are alluded to in the clinical interview section but should be more strongly emphasized.

The inclusion of two occupational and aptitude tests is probably adequate for this book since a foray into that specialty field would quickly become cumbersome.

The section dealing with malingering is generally well done but perhaps errs on the side of caution. A cogent discussion of factitious disorders, based on DSM-IV criteria, would have been helpful. Cross-validation between tasks within an assessment battery, combined with the use of specific tests, especially those relying on reaction time measures or implicit learning could have been elaborated further.

In summary, this is a highly recommended and very competent volume which should be considered as a "gold standard" for the practicing neuropsychologist. Principles of sound test construction and validation are applied to all of the instruments reviewed with excellent critical commentary. Spreen and Strauss should be commended for their contribution to the field, which represents a herculean effort. Although not intended to be a comprehensive handbook, clinical wisdom as well as scientific rigor are well balanced with the emerging opinions and advice being very sound. Diligent reading of this volume is virtually guaranteed to improve the quality of both clinical and experimental practice for even experienced neuropsychologists.

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**DIAGNOSTIC NEUROPATHOLOGY.** 1998. By Harry V. Vinters, Michael A. Farrell, Paul S. Mischel and Karl H. Anders. Published by Marcell Dekker, Inc. 669 pages. \$C292.50.

Books covering broad aspects of neuropathology tend to be of two sorts; comprehensive, encyclopedic tomes used by medical specialists as reference texts and brief, introductory manuals designed to familiarize students with this highly specialized and complex field. There remains a definite need for something in the middle ground. Residents rotating through the neuropathology service and neurology, neurosurgery and pathology residents preparing for their exams need a text which covers all the major aspects of neuropathology in sufficient depth without it being intimidating. *Diagnostic Neuropathology* fulfills this role admirably. The ten chapters cover all major categories of neuropathological disease including tumor and disorders of nerve and

muscle. With more than 600 pages of text there is ample room to provide a meaningful depth of discussion. The four authors are at various stages of their careers in pathology and each provides a different perspective and different areas of strength. As with any book written by a small number of authors, there are biases which reflect the authors' personal interests. Although topics such as neurodegeneration and HIV infection are covered in particular detail, all chapters are competently written and incorporate important recent advances in genetic, molecular and biochemical aspects of disease pathogenesis. In addition to more than 400 black and white photographs, simple diagrams are well used to illustrate and summarize key concepts. However, the major strength of this work is the very practical approach taken and the writing style which is simple and easy to read (almost intimate). This allows one to read through entire chapters without losing interest and results in a more unified view of the topic.

Despite the overall positive impression of this book, there are a few areas where minor improvements could be made. The quality of some of the photographs is suboptimal; while most of the gross photos are clear, a significant proportion of the photomicrographs lack contrast, are too dark or are at too low a magnification to adequately illustrate their subject matter. This impression is probably heightened by the frequent use of good quality color photos which is now commonplace in so many medical texts and journals. Intentionally avoiding the use of numerous subheadings allows the text to flow easily but it is sometimes difficult to find specific pieces of information. Finally, the short, concise list of recent references provided at the end of each chapter is appropriate and useful but these may be overlooked as they are rarely referred to in the body of the text.

In summary, this is a very useful text which is most appropriate for residents encountering neuropathology for the first time. While the cost may prohibit the number of personal copies purchased, this book will make a valuable addition to departmental libraries.

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**EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF SPINAL TUMORS.** 1997. By Aldo Fortuna, Luigi Ferrante, Pierpaolo Lunardo and Michele Acqui. Published by Masson. 83 pages. Price not available.

This brief monograph attempts to summarize the clinical presentation, radiological features, pathology and surgical therapy of spinal tumors. This includes a discussion of primary and secondary spinal column tumors as well as intradural/extramedullary and intramedullary lesions. The authors are all neurosurgeons in the Department of Neurological Sciences of the University of Rome "La Sapienza". The text has been translated from Italian and could have benefitted from more careful editing. Unfortunately, there are numerous typographic errors and awkwardly phrased sentences which detract from this otherwise nicely presented text.

The target audience has not been specified. Clearly however, the information is not sufficiently detailed or current to be of interest or value to practicing neurosurgeons. On the other hand, this slim volume could be quickly read with some profit by medical students, nursing staff or junior housestaff on a neurology or neurosurgery service. The sections on clinical presentation