

APHASIA, ALEXIA AND AGRAPHIA (Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery Monographs) D. Frank Benson. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, 1979, available in Canada from Academic Press, 55 Barber Greene Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 2A1. 213 pages, book #60262755. \$31.25.

This book is Volume I of Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery Monographs published by Churchill Livingstone. It is a well written book, easy to read and covers the subject admirably. The bibliography is huge and comprehensive. The language characteristics of the different aphasias are well described and the book is a working manual useful in the assessment of individual patients. If one could read only chapters 7 and 8, about 30 pages, the result would be an understanding of the common types of aphasia.

One wonders why the pathological conditions in Chapter 3 were included. To quote the author "totally different pathological states can and do produce identical aphasic syndromes" — why then go on about thrombosis, embolus, tumor, etc.? The speech disorders are due to anatomical lesions and the nature of the lesion is of secondary importance.

Chapter 5 also seems redundant and the parts dealing with the EEG, brain scan, angiogram, etc. are not necessary and not useful. Also, is it necessary to tell the reader that "the patient must be dead before the autopsy material becomes available"? Similarly, "there is no aphasia produced by pathology involving organs other than the brain", detracts from the generally thoughtful quality of the book.

Apart from these minor flaws, this is an excellent book. It could become the first reference when one is confronted with a speech problem.

R.T. Ross MD

The Fifth Pan American Congress of Neurology took place in Caracas from the 6th - 12th of October, 1979.

Canadians contributed six invited scientific presentations and six free communications. Dr. Vladimir Hachinski of Toronto gave a key-note address on undergraduate neurological education. The Canadian participation was strong and well appreciated. The Sixth Pan American Congress of Neurology will be held in Buenos Aires in 1983.

J. PRESTON ROBB HONORED.

Dr. Robb, a Professor of Neurology in McGill's Faculty of Medicine and former Neurologist-in-Chief of the Montreal Neurological Hospital is currently engaged in developing a WHO program in epilepsy control in Kenya.

The American Epilepsy Society at its Annual Meeting on December 6th, 1979 awarded the William Lennox Award to Dr. Robb for his outstanding contribution in the field of epilepsy.

Dr. Robb has the congratulations and best wishes of all of the staff of the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences.

Applications now being accepted for Neuro-Oncology Fellowship positions for 1980-1981. The purpose of this program is to train neurologists, neurosurgeons, and medical oncologists in therapeutic and clinical neuro-oncology and laboratory research. One or two years may be elected and stipends are variable depending on previous training. Send resume and letters of reference to: Victor Levin, M.D., Chief, Neuro-Oncology Service, Brain Tumor Research Center, HSW783, University of California, San Francisco, CA 94143.

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FRANCIS McNAUGHTON PRIZE ESSAY IN NEUROLOGY AWARD RULES 1979-1980

1. Junior Members of the Society, Trainees in Neurology and other Residents and Interns are eligible for this award.
2. The Trainees need not be the sole author but should be primarily responsible for the work to be presented.
3. The study to be original and not presented previously.
4. The deadline for receipt of submissions is January 7, 1980.
5. The Prize Essay Committee consists of the President and the two immediate Past Presidents of the Canadian Neurological Society.
6. The time allotted for the presentation is twenty minutes.
7. There should be two abstracts submitted — one of two hundred words and one of two thousand words. Both should be in triplicate.
8. The prize consists of an honorarium of \$200.00, air-fare from the residence of the trainee to the city of the Congress, and a suitably inscribed book prize.
9. The authors should indicate in their covering letter whether they wish their paper to be automatically submitted to the Program Committee for consideration of presentation at the Congress if it is not chosen for the prize.
10. Please submit abstracts to Dr. Albert Aguayo, President, The Canadian Neurological Society, Montreal General Hospital, 1650 Cedar Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1A4, before January 7, 1980.