

BOOKS RECEIVED

LYMPHOMA AND LEUKEMIA OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. 2ND EDITION. 2012. Edited by Tracy Batchelor, Lisa M. DeAngelis. Published by Springer. 415 pages. C\$190.00 approx.

MODELLING NATURAL ACTION SELECTION. 2012. Edited by Anil K. Seth, Tony J. Prescott, Joanna J. Bryson. Published by Cambridge University Press. 544 pages. C\$140.00 approx.

THE NEUROLOGIC DIAGNOSIS: A PRACTICAL BEDSIDE APPROACH. 2012. By Jack N. Alpert. Published by Springer. 297 pages. C\$50.00 approx.

WEB OF ANGELS. 2012. By Lilian Nattel. Published by Random House of Canada Limited. 343 pages. C\$22.00 approx.

CEREBRAL PALSY: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH. 2011. Edited by Christos P. Panteliadis. Published by Dustri-Verlag. 312 pages. C\$85.00 approx.

PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY. 2012. By James F. Bale Jr., Joshua L. Bonkowsky, Francis M. Filloux, Gary L. Hedlund, Denise M. Nielsen, Paul D. Larsen. Published by Thieme/Mason Publishing Ltd. 352 pages. C\$90.00 approx.

DUUS' TOPICAL DIAGNOSIS IN NEUROLOGY: ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, SIGNS, SYMPTOMS. 5TH EDITION. 2012. By Mathias Baehr, Michael Frotscher. Published by Thieme. 333 pages. C\$60.00 approx.

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INTRACRANIAL ANEURYSM SURGERY: BASIC PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES. 2ND EDITION. 2012. By Duke S. Samson, H. Hunt Batjer, Jonathan White, J. Talmadge Trammell, Christopher S. Eddleman. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 203 pages. C\$75 approx.

Rated ☆☆☆☆☆

This slim, soft covered and unassuming manual on intracranial aneurysm surgery is, I think, simply the best thing that will ever be written on the subject. Two hundred and three pages of clear text, richly and beautifully illustrated by Ms. Suzanne Truex, this is the bible for aneurysm surgeons learning and mastering their craft. The senior authors Duke Samson and Hunt Batjer were both fellows under Dr. Charles Drake and then worked as partners for many years back home in Texas at Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. Hunt now wears his cowboy boots in Chicago where he is the Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Northwestern University, but the pair continues to poke fun at each other every time they stand at the podium, which is regularly. Their Texan drawl and wry wit can be heard on every page, but this second edition of the book from Thieme Medical Publishers has benefited from the help of several younger colleagues, including two “dual-trained” open and endovascular surgeons.

The manual begins with a short but charming chapter on the set-up and culture of the operating room itself, loaded with advice and reminders, including; “...most aneurysm surgeons are familiar with the sudden switch from “Cruise” to “Full Military

Power”, a potentially critical transition that occurs not infrequently in aneurysm surgery. When that situation arises, if everyone in the OR—from orderly to anesthesiologist—has mimicked the surgeon’s focus throughout the operative procedure, within seconds of the suction’s change in tune, the OR will be at maximum efficiency, and the lucky surgeon can then concentrate on doing his or her thing.”

The chapters that follow succinctly cover each aneurysm location and operation in an organized fashion tailored to the anatomical target, commenting on anatomy, the operative plan and procedure, positioning and proximal control, clip application and so forth, following a consistent, step-by-step format, but always ending with several critical “final thoughts”.

The senior authors have long been master aneurysm surgeons and this book, along with its remarkable illustrations, distills their enormous and probably unsurpassable surgical experience into a very readable and friendly manual, filled with gems from cover to cover.

Endovascular therapy, these days increasingly in the hands of neurosurgeons, is the present and future of aneurysm repair, but there still remain a number of intracranial aneurysms and situations where microsurgery is preferable, so these special surgical skills are far from obsolete. Diminishing volumes of intracranial aneurysm operations result in a much longer learning curve for young surgeons who, rather than learning from their own inevitable mistakes (unfortunately my mistakes were my best teacher), might make a habit of quickly reviewing the pertinent part of this manual, along with its operative diagrams, as part of their own surgical routine. Five of five stars; get this book!

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