

eccentric "lone wolf" but worked alongside Frank Walsh in neuro-ophthalmology and Walter Dandy in neurosurgery. He did not like to travel, never attended medial meetings, chained smoked, dressed poorly, limped, spoke quietly and only took students if he liked them. His reputation however, was based on his remarkable diagnostic skill, keen observation and his influential book, "Diseases of the Nervous System in Infancy, Childhood and Adolescence" which was the leading text of pediatric neurology for generations.

Hans Zinsser was estimated by students to walk one to three miles during his energetic lectures. Although I have read Zinsser's autobiography, I never would have expected to see him in this volume, and it probably relates more to Aird having experienced his lectures at Harvard than to his studies on herpes encephalitis and syphilis. Because it is a very personal odyssey over the last half century, Dr. Aird can be forgiven a predominance of individuals from the University of California, San Francisco, and a tendency to shift the centre of American neurology from the eastern seaboard to the west coast.

I think all readers will be somewhat puzzled by a few that are included, and many who are excluded. Given those who were included why did we not hear of Joe Foley, J.C. Richardson, Roger Gilliatt, Frank Rose, W. Ian McDonald, Sir Hugh Cairns, Denis Williams, Wylie McKissock, P.K. Thomas, John Marshall, Bud Rowland, Bob Joynt, Howard Barrows, Jack Wisnant, Donald Baxter, Labe Scheinberg, Preston Robb, William Oldendorf, Bob Fishmann, Morris Bender, Milton Shy to mention only a few. It would be expected that anyone compiling a list of major contributors to neurology during the "flowering period" would create a personal and subjective list, but the high percentage of questionable inclusions, and the large number of surprising omissions makes this a very unbalanced book, to the point where it would be more appropriately titled "outstanding neurologists I have known" rather than the more ambitious "foundations of modern neurology".

It is interesting, and sometimes fun to read as a personal recollection of neurologists he knew much in the vein of Critchley's 1990 correctly titled "The Ventricle of Memory: Personal Recollection of Some Neurologists"³ but it fails in living up to its title promise of outlining the foundations of neurology in this century.

References

1. Aird RB. Some Reminiscences. *Archives of Neurology*. 1988; 45: 1145-1155.
2. Haymaker W. Editor. *The Founders of Neurology*. Charles C. Thomas. Springfield, 1953.
3. Critchley, Macdonald. *The Ventricle of Memory: Personal Recollections of Some Neurologists*. Raven Press, New York, 1990.

*Jock Murray
Halifax, Nova Scotia*

MRI OF THE SPINE. 1994. Edited by T.E. St. Amour, S.C. Hodges, R.W. Laakman and D.E. Tamas. Published by Raven Press. 865 pages. \$C241.00

This text is a comprehensive review of MR imaging of diseases of the spine. The book contains 865 pages and the format consists of eight sections based on the disease group. Brief introductory chapters on MRI protocols, terminology and MRI appearances of pathology are included.

Each section has multiple chapters, each of which is intended as a self-contained discussion of a disease/disease group. The chapters are organized with an introductory unknown case to stimulate interest followed by a detailed review of the clinical, pathologic and

radiologic features of the disease and a discussion addressing clinical and therapeutic issues and differential diagnosis. The images are of excellent quality and well labelled.

The text succeeds in the two goals set in the preface: (1) it provides accurate and comprehensive examples of the spectrum of MRI findings for a given disease, (2) it addresses clinical issues germane to MR interpretation in daily practice.

The greatest value of this text is found in the discussions where the author has described the role and limitations of MRI in diagnosis and incorporated clinical features to narrow the differential diagnosis. The text is practical in emphasis though those who have experienced numerous problematic cases in practice will appreciate that the rare and unusual are addressed with generous references.

The text would be of value as a reference for radiologists, nonradiologists and subspecialty trainees involved with MRI of the spine.

*William Hu
Calgary, Alberta*

PHYLOGENY AND DEVELOPMENT OF CATECHOLAMINE SYSTEMS IN THE CNS OF VERTEBRATES. 1994. Edited by W.J.A.J. Smeets and A. Reiner. Published by Cambridge University Press. 488 pages. \$C150.00

This book is concerned primarily with the anatomy and function of brain catecholamine systems in each of the seven extant classes of vertebrates. Separate chapters review data on the development of the systems in those species where such information is available and on such topics as sex-specific characteristics of the catecholamine systems. A final chapter attempts to summarize the current concepts on evolution and function. The book grew out of a two day session on phylogenetic and developmental aspects of catecholamine systems which occurred during the 7th International Catecholamine Symposium, held in Amsterdam in June 1992. A useful index is provided.

In each of the chapters on anatomy and function, detailed maps of cell bodies and fibers immunohistochemically positive for tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) and dopamine (DA) are usually presented. In some instances data on staining for noradrenaline, dopaminergic beta-hydroxylase, and phenylethanolamine-N-methyltransferase are also given, but these are generally less detailed. Five chapters deal with the distributions in mammalian systems, with separate ones being devoted to catecholamine systems in the midbrain plus hindbrain and in the diencephalon, while others discuss catecholamine innervation of the basal ganglia or cortex. The fifth is concerned with the existence and possible importance of telencephalic dopamine neurons in monkeys, humans and rats. The maps for noradrenergic and adrenergic systems are generally, as one would expect, more detailed in the chapters on mammals than in those on sub-mammalian species.

Most chapters also describe the relationship of the catecholamines to various functional systems, such as the olfactory, visual and motor, as well as possible interactions and colocalizations of the catecholamines with other neurotransmitter systems. In most cases, the possible interactions are described based only upon similar distributions but, in the case of the mammalian diencephalon, excellent summary tables are provided, with many of the reported interactions being supported by electron microscopy.

The chapters on ontogenesis are generally much less detailed than those on adult anatomy, with the rat and chick being clearly the most well studied species. Development of catecholamine systems in the rat is discussed in general terms in one chapter, with a second being devoted specifically to development of the hypothalamic systems and their influence on hypothalamic neuropeptide expression,