

data were subjected to complex mathematical analyses and five subgroups of psychomotor seizures were identified. The commonest type was the temporobasal — limbic type and the less frequent ones were the temporal pole type, the posterior neocortical type, the frontobasalgulate type and the opercular type. These five subgroups, defined on the basis of their focus of origin using depth EEG recordings, showed preferential routes of electrical spread through the cerebrum. They also showed different, but overlapping constellations of clinical features. The author suggested strategies for the surgical treatment of the five seizure types. Proof of the value of these strategies, as compared to standard surgical approaches, is lacking at present because of the small number of patients studied to date.

The strengths of this work lie in the extensive review of the subject covering English, French and German language publications, in the provocative electroclinical findings and in the suggestions for improved therapy. The weaknesses relate largely to presentation. One third of the volume is devoted to mathematical analyses that this reviewer found incomprehensible. Also, the case reports were not presented in a manner that sufficiently emphasized the outstanding points of interest of each case.

Overall, the volume is a valuable contribution to the study of psychomotor seizures and should be read by all those with an interest in the field.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM. Edited by Richard A. Thompson and John R. Green. Published by S.P. Medical and Scientific Books. 256 pages. \$40.00.

This volume is a collection of papers presented at a symposium discussing infectious diseases of the central nervous system sponsored by the Barrow Neurological Institute and Foundation. It is the second in a series entitled 'Neurologic illness: Diagnosis and treatment'. The editors' remark in the preface that the book is not intended to be an exhaustive review of the title topic but does attempt to emphasize recent developments and new information. Thus, many important CNS infections, including tuberculosis meningitis, most fungal meningitides, neurosyphilis, and the bunyavirus and togavirus encephalidites are not discussed.

The editors of any book which is a compilation of papers submitted from a symposium will have problems maintaining consistency of content and quality of contributions, and this book is an example of such difficulty. The chapters generally offer one of three different approaches to their subjects. These include several chapters which provide complete and in depth reviews of their topics, such as slow virus diseases and prions. Other chapters, including the chapters on *Herpes simplex* infections and acute immune-mediated diseases provide more superficial reviews, and the absence of precise details limits their value for any reader searching for assistance with 'Diagnosis and treatment' of these problems. Finally, some contributors have chosen to discuss specific aspects of a given topic and the chapter content does not reflect the chapter title. For instance, the chapter on pathophysiology of bacterial meningitis limits its discussion to preliminary work studying the CSF polymorphonuclear response in that disease, and the chapter on parasitic infections discusses completely only the surgical aspects of the management of parasitic infections of the central nervous system.

The chapters on bacterial meningitis and brain abscess provide useful tables of antimicrobials and doses recommended for

treatment of these diseases. However, in the chapter discussing herpes simplex infections the appropriate dose and duration of antiviral therapy is never stated. Important and potentially useful chapters for practitioners, including those in CNS shunt infections and neurosurgical infections, are marred by a lack of critical evaluation of data, particularly with respect to prophylactic antimicrobials. While there is a need for clearer delineation of the appropriate use of antibiotics in prophylaxis and therapy of CNS shunt and neurosurgical infections, the authors of these chapters appear to endorse the evaluation of such therapy through retrospective, uncontrolled surveys rather than through properly designed prospective, randomized studies. The discussion of coccidioidomycosis infection would have been more useful if the author's experience and approach to management were presented in tabular form or as an algorithm rather than as an anecdotal collection of case histories. Therapeutic information provided in several instances, such as the use of third generation cephalosporins in the treatment of gram-negative meningitis and praziquantel for the treatment of cerebral cysticercosis, is already outdated because of recent reports of the efficacy of these drugs. Finally, there are numerous typographical errors, some of which are of importance, such as the use of 'litigation' for 'ligation', and 'microbacteria' for 'mycobacteria', and some merely irritating, such as the replacement of letters by numbers.

This text cannot be recommended for individuals, including most clinical practitioners, who are looking for a complete, concise and critical review of the subject of the management of infections of the central nervous system. However, individuals with an interest in some specific topics in this area may find certain chapters to be useful reviews.

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PERIPHERAL NERVE DISORDERS — A PRACTICAL APPROACH. 1984. Edited by A.K. Asbury and R.W. Gilliatt. Published by Butterworth and Co. Ltd. 339 pages.

Peripheral Nerve Disorders is the fourth in a series of volumes published by Butterworth and Co. as the successor to *Modern Trends in Neurology*, the periodic reviews on neurologic topics that appeared between 1951 and 1975 under the editorship of Dr. Denis Williams. The current series of monographs was designed by its editors, C.D. Marsden and A.K. Asbury, to review areas of neurologic interest where there have been significant advances that have practical applications for clinicians involved with patients with neurologic disorders. *Peripheral Nerve Disorders*, edited by A.K. Asbury and R.W. Gilliatt, admirably fulfills this objective.

The opening chapter, written by the editors themselves, sets the tone of the monograph by presenting a practical approach to patients with neuropathy that incorporates a contemporary view of the histopathogenesis of nerve disorders, discusses their general clinical features, outlines the uses of electrodiagnostic tests, and commendably cautions readers about the restricted usefulness and potential hazards of nerve biopsy. Based on their acknowledged experience as peripheral nerve specialists, Asbury and Gilliatt include a flow-diagram approach for the assessment of patients with neuropathies. Such guidelines are particularly helpful to clinicians, whether residents or general neurologists, as they attempt to investigate and treat patients with chronic undiagnosed polyneuropathies, a syndrome for which even specialized centers fail to establish an etiologic diagnosis in as many as 25% of patients. The approach given in Figure 1.1 involves the clinical classification of peripheral nerve