

Books Received

BALANCE DISORDERS. A CASE-STUDY APPROACH. 1996. By Russell K. Portenoy and Ronald M. Kanner. Published by F.A. Davis Company/Publishers. 357 pages. \$C129.00.

COMPARATIVE VERTEBRATE NEUROANATOMY. 1996. By Ann B. Butler and William Hodos. Published by John Wiley & Sons Canada Limited. 514 pages. \$C102.00.

MELANCHOLIA: A DISORDER OF MOVEMENT AND MOOD. A PHENOMENOLOGICAL AND NEUROBIOLOGICAL REVIEW. 1996. Edited by Gordon Parker and Dusan Hadzi-Pavlovic. Published by Cambridge University Press. 343 pages. \$C91.00

NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL BASIS OF CEREBRAL BLOOD FLOW CONTROL: AN INTRODUCTION. 1995. Edited by S. Mraovitch, R. Sercombe. Published by John Libbey & Company Limited. 408 pages. \$C72.00

PAIN MANAGEMENT: THEORY AND PRACTICE. 1996. By Russel K. Portenoy, Ronald M. Kanner. Published by F.A. Davis Company/Publishers. 357 pages. \$C129.00.

THE LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUALS: BEHAVIORAL, NEUROBIOLOGICAL, AND PSYCHOSOCIAL PERSPECTIVES. 1996. Edited by David Magnusson. Published by Cambridge University Press. 526 pages. \$C124.00

Book Reviews

COMPANION TO CLINICAL NEUROLOGY. 1994. W. Pryse Phillips. Published by Little Brown. 1009 pages. \$C130.00

"Companion. n. A handbook or guide to a specific subject." A person employed to accompany, assist, and live with another in the capacity of a helpful friend. Aptly named, this book is neither a compendium nor a dictionary. Certainly, it is not an encyclopedia. It is a work that successfully conveys the spectrum from the richness and diversity of our neurological heritage through the precision and complexity of neurological sciences in the '90s. The content of the book ranges from the obscure, arcane and obsolete into the contemporary and vital. Descriptions are mostly brief but cogent. The information is clinically helpful and appropriate. Authoritative sources are cited. Most often, a single reference is deemed enough to suffice and probably does.

Definitions are clear, incisive, inclusive, richly articulate and manageable. Best of all, they are mostly memorable. Some even betray the authors wry, dry humour.

Charts are liberally used to edify classifications, diagnostic criteria and tests as well as clinical scales, scores and indices. Biographical sketches vary from cryptic to extensive, their duration seemingly reflecting the perceived contribution of the subject but often expanded to provide some historical colour and intrigue. Some of the biographies are even critical and provocative. Eponymous designations permeate neurological history and lore and extend into everyday neurological conversation. These permeate the Companion as well without apology or qualification. Most are enriched by the appended biographical sketches and are perhaps validated by the bracketed alternative designations. (Which you would prefer as more useful or even meaningful: "Lennox-Gastaut syndrome" or "Severe myokinetic epilepsy of childhood with slow spike and wave"?)

This unique volume represents the author's endeavour to enhance precision in description and diagnosis of neurologic disease. He has succeeded admirably.

*T. Peter Seland
Kelowna, British Columbia*

OPERATING ON THE FRONTIER. MEMOIRS OF A PIONEER CANADIAN NEUROSURGEON. 1995. By Dr. Frank Turnbull. Published by Harbor Publishing. 301 pages. \$C30.00

While an intern at the Toronto General Hospital in 1929,

Frank Turnbull admitted a man one evening to the neurology ward whose poor condition and physical findings seemed consistent with a diagnosis of subdural hematoma. This was a condition that the young doctor had not yet come across, but the presentation seemed typical from what he had read. The staffman was called in, but after examining the patient he disagreed, favoring stroke as the diagnosis. The neurologist imperiously overruled Turnbull's attempt to have the man transferred to Dr. Ken McKenzie's neurosurgical service. Turnbull was present at the post-mortem, and when a huge subdural hematoma was discovered, he stormed out of the autopsy suite and immediately located Dr. McKenzie to request a transfer for neurosurgical training. And so this twist of fate, and one patient's tragic and preventable outcome, had at least one good come of it: setting young Turnbull on a course for neurosurgery. In Dr. Turnbull's long awaited memoirs (this year he turns 92 years of age) we can now learn exactly how fascinating that course was. And reading between the lines (Dr. Turnbull possesses a neurosurgeon's typical modesty) we can also get a sense of the significant service Dr. Turnbull has provided both his country and profession alike.

Not strictly chronological or autobiographical, Dr. Turnbull tells us at the outset that "I tried to avoid telling every damn thing I know". Considering the uncanny powers of his memory, it's probably a good thing. Frank was born in Goderich, Ontario, the first son of a progressive and well regarded country surgeon, a doctor who was also endowed with a certain good sense: he waited until his mid forties to marry and then wed a lovely girl 21 years his junior! Frank was named after his father's brother, also a doctor, who had died in a tragic canoe accident several years before. His dad's hopes of having a brother join him in practice in Huron County ruined, the family moved to the west coast for a fresh start in 1907. Frank describes growing up in the young city of Vancouver, an interesting account for anyone from that beautiful city, his education at the University of British Columbia, and an incongruous stint as an international seaman. This all before following his father's, and uncle's footsteps in medicine at the University of Toronto. Frank graduated in 1928.

Dr. Turnbull, the first official entrant into the University of Toronto's "Gallie Course" in surgery, trained with Dr. McKenzie at the Toronto General Hospital in 1931. McKenzie transmitted to his resident his "infectious enthusiasm for neurosurgery, and his superb surgical technique." This chapter contains some wonderful