Although this book contains useful information, apart from the use of surgery before scanning and intra-operative ultrasound, it does not make any other new management points. It is questionable whether it justifies a whole monograph, although it is reasonably priced at $40.00 U.S.

MICHAEL POWELL


In 1969, Cassinari and Pagni wrote the only monograph on central pain until the present book appeared. This book, an excellent account of developments since that time, comprises chapters from 26 authors who contributed to a Symposium on Central Pain held in Michigan in July 1990. The book is particularly important since the field covers numerous related topics which are spread widely in the scientific literature, and it is difficult to summarise the "state of the art", a task achieved here admirably.

The book is divided into sections comprising clinical aspects of central pain states: assessment, measurement and behavioural issues; anatomy and physiology relevant to central pain states; chemophobia and pharmacology; and therapeutic aspects.

Certainly problems recur throughout the book, for example precisely is central pain? This is no problem for post-stroke pain syndromes, but if, as is so amply discussed, widespread changes occur in the central nervous system following purely peripheral painful lesions, does separation of central and peripheral pain still make sense? Nevertheless, here is the place to find out about pain after strokes and spinal cord injury, about what happens in the spinal cord and thalamus in central pain, about denervation hypersensitivity, neuronal plasticity, what the relevant pathways might be, what the most useful drugs and augmenting and ablative procedures are for helping these patients. And much more.

The contributions have been very well written and edited, the book is extremely up-to-date and immaculately produced.

GD SCHOTT


As the title implies, this book is predominantly an atlas of abnormal magnetic resonance images of the central nervous system. In many cases, comparable computed tomography scans are included and some angiograms and plain films are also illustrated. Many of the pathologies are histologically confirmed, though no specimens are illustrated. In conformation to the title, diagnostic MRI is evidently from the images alone; in others such as vascular diseases, confirmation is by other radiological studies.

The text is brief and at an elementary level. Short chapters deal with the basic principles of magnetic resonance and of normal and abnormal signal production; and, an anatomical atlas displaying normal sections of the brain and spine with labelled line drawings is included, though only the major anatomical features are indicated.

Most of the common abnormalities indicated are included but the range of pathologies is by no means complete. In general, the cases selected to illustrate a particular condition demonstrate the important and typical features on which the diagnosis depends. However, there is no labelling of illustrations or line drawings. The source of the book and many details visible on the illustrations do not receive any comment in the captions.

Most of the images were produced on an Hitachi 0.3 Tesla superconducting system. With few exceptions, they are of good quality and are always adequate to demonstrate the pathology. There is a good bibliography but the latest references are from 1988. The book is at too elementary a level to be useful to neuroscientists. It is suitable for students and perhaps for general radiologists and physicians beginning to study the central nervous system. MRI but unfortunately, it is relatively expensive.

BRIAN KENDALL


This book published by O.U.P. has been translated by Zihl with the assistance of Weiskrantz. The value of this exercise goes far beyond an opportunity to put Popperleuter's ideas into an historical context because so much of this material is unfamiliar and remains illuminating in its own right. The preface to the translation gives a brief biography of Popperleuter. The translator has achieved a deep understanding and we are well prepared for Popperleuter's approach to his subject and the internal and external factors which shaped it, and those which later condemned it to unjustified neglect.

Popperleuter did not consider his clinical material (cases of missile injuries to the brain sustained in World War One) to be suitable for a study of localisation of function and none is attempted. Thus do we not find the intricate methods of accurate localisation of lesions and the emphasis on the topographic aspects of the visual field defects which occupied Inouye and Holmes. Not only was the sceptical of the concept of a point to point representation of the visual field in the cortex but the location of the damage was irrelevant to Popperleuter's ultimate objective: rehabilitation. This interest, however, generated a comprehensive account of the functional consequences of the occipital damage in these patients aided by a thorough grounding in Gestalt Psychology. Each aspect of visual dysfunction is described by an essay describing the basic psychological principles, these are charged with Popperleuter's own ideas but are also excellent summaries of the state of
BOOK REVIEWS: Pain and Central Nervous System Disease: The Central Pain Syndromes. (The Bristol-Myers Squibb Symposium on Pain Research.)
GD Schott

J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 1992 55: 86
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.55.1.86-a

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