concerned with the assessment of genuine stress incontinence and non-surgical and surgical treatment of patients with incontinence. There is a wealth of production and it is evident that there has been relatively little cross-talk between the various authors. Thus, the terminology used by the clinicians is not strictly comparable with that employed by those discussing basic anatomy and quite startlingly different concepts of bladder neck function and dysfunction are presented in different places in the book. This lack of concordance reflects, not so much lack of clinical policy, as it is a recognition of the widely opposing views as to how these disorders of function should be interpreted in relation to the basic science.

One of the problems in assessing neurogenic bladder disorders remains that the methods of investigation are relatively restricted. Thus, concepts derived from study of patients with weakness of the pelvic floor associated with childbirth-induced denervation, are used to refer to the dysfunctional disorder that occurs in patients with spinal cord and central nervous system disorders. Such concepts are not appropriate in this context and much work remains to be done.

The book is somewhat limited in its scope, particularly in that the nature of the selective weakness that affects certain pelvic floor muscles in women with genuine stress incontinence is not addressed, and the reader will search in vain for a discussion of faecal incontinence, a disorder commonly associated with urinary incontinence. Although a number of gynaecologists contribute to the book, nowhere is there a clear account of the relation between rectal prolapse, genital prolapse, and urethral prolapse, disorders that themselves deserve discussion under the rubric “Neuro-Urology”. The lack of awareness of some of the newer concepts is particularly well illustrated in the chapter on Pharmacological Treatment of Incontinence where it continues to be assumed that drugs that interfere with detrusor function may improve continence, a disorder that is really a matter of the time relationships and strength inter-relationships between contractions of the detrusor muscle and the sphincter muscle. Since the latter consists of both striated and non-striated components it is, perhaps, hardly surprising that conventional remedies are disappointing.

Despite these conceptual problems, this book is recommended, since it provides a well thought out, if overly conventional and primarily North American view of this subject, seen strictly from the view of the urologist.

MICHAEL SWASH


The book is based upon the third Triennial Meeting of the International Basal Ganglia Society held in Italy in June 1989. The Society has a very wide membership which includes not only those involved in the study of dystonia, but also those involved in the clinical study of other neurological disorders. The book has been compiled by a smaller committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. V. Pappas, which is also involved in the study of basal ganglia disorders. The book covers a very wide range of material and is divided into several sections. It is intended to provide a basis for future research into basal ganglia disorders and may be of use to both clinicians and researchers.

The book reflects this extensive following. It should be stressed that the book does not pretend to simply present a summary of current developments in basal ganglia disease such as Parkinson’s disease, Huntington’s chorea, dystonia and the drug-induced dyskinesias but is more of an in depth analysis based upon recent clinical and basic science research.

The text is sensibly divided into several sections which deal with the basal ganglia from various aspects, namely anatomical organisation and chemical neuro-anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, models of basal ganglia pathology and clinical studies. While the scientific papers generally have a very focused interest, most of the sections are supplied with an overview which provides a broader perspective.

The book is relatively expensive. Its primary role is that of a reference work relating to all aspects of basal ganglia developments. For the clinician or basic scientist who has a special interest in movement disorders and basal ganglia structure and function it will provide a very convenient collection of essential reading material.


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