
The preface to this useful volume states “the present book is designed to help the undergraduate medical student relate already acquired knowledge of the basic neurological sciences to the examination of the patient and to diseases of the nervous system. There has been no attempt to discuss in detail all the conditions seen by a neurologist and their treatment since there are many excellent comprehensive books readily available which can and should be consulted”. Although this book is the most useful book to date for medical students by virtue of this approach, the clarity of the authors’ style, and the use of diagrams, it still, in my opinion, contains too much detailed information for the average medical student.

With this comment, I shall recommend the volume, which is appropriately priced, to medical students without hesitation.

IMS WILKINSON


This book bears some resemblance to a Sunday newspaper; it is large, easy to read, comparatively inexpensive and extensively illustrated. Unfortunately the resemblance does not end there: much of the content is superficial or oversimplified, and it is hard to see who would really benefit from it despite its aim to be “a comprehensive text on pain management that emphasizes the adjunctive role and limitations of one modality within the available armamentarium of the informed clinician”. The title is misleading; whilst it surely implies the contents are related or relevant to the technique of transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation, in fact little in the field of pain escapes attention. There are chapters from the six contributors dealing with neurophysiology, psychology, structures in the “neuromusculoskeletal” system producing pain, consideration of numerous painful conditions, and so on. Some of these topics appear very out of place, whilst others such as a useful discussion on tender points are certainly pertinent.

The book is at its best when it deals with the subject in hand, and useful sections include the history of electrical stimulation, electrode placement techniques, varieties of electrodes and machines, types of stimulation, and precautions and contraindications. It is pleasing to see extravagant claims are not made for TENS; for instance, few would disagree that electrical stimulation is rarely of use for thalamic pain. Although there are hundreds of references, some interesting and unusual, others banal and merely references to standard textbooks, this is not the authoritative book to be consulted for its basic scientific content. Moreover it is probable that much of the information on electrical stimulation is better and more quickly learnt by practical experience in this essentially practical field. Nevertheless, like a Sunday newspaper, perusal will sometimes reveal information of real interest which would be hard to obtain elsewhere.

GD SCHOTT


This short volume reports the Proceedings of the International Workshop: New Trends in Multiple Sclerosis Research held in Gallarate in March 1982. Our Italian colleagues have kindly translated into English their work and views of the state of the art at that time. Thanks to an agreement between Gallarate Hospital and Milan University the Italians have access to 2,400 patients who are being studied with the usual immunological, virological and epidemiological techniques. Reviews of lymphocyte subpopulations, CSF immunoglobulins and the controversial E-UFA test are provided by Arnason, Delmotte and Field, as invited guest speakers. The passage of time leaves the inevitable impression that in 1984 these pages are valuable only as a historical record of the occasion.

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