
Clinical localisation of lesions might be considered less important in the CT era but, in the brain at least, CT has actually added to our knowledge and made the clinical art more predictive. This book is a compilation of what is known about clinical localisation in neurology. About half is devoted to the cranial nerves and peripheral nervous system and about half to the brain and spinal cord.

The book is perhaps most valuable for reference. It is especially useful for the sort of infrequently needed facts that few of us can remember but most of us occasionally still need. It is less valuable as a book for the trainee practical physician to dip into for useful tips. In places, for example, so much detail is included that clinical priorities are lost. Thus in the description of spinal root syndromes, an S1 root lesion is reported, amongst other features, to cause weakness of over 16 listed muscles, but the characteristic clinical pattern which should allow the condition to be recognised in a few seconds is not emphasised at all.

It is a useful book for the right sort of person, perhaps better for the encyclopaedic student who wants to come top in a written examination than for the aspiring clinician.

J MEADOWS


This is a North American contribution to the expanding field of publications in neuropathology: all the authors are from the USA and Canada. In the spectrum of textbooks, it occupies the middle-ground between the comprehensive and the concise, although, for example, it is much nearer to Greenfield's Neuropathology than to Escourroulé and Poirier's basic text. This book covers nearly all aspects of neuropathology with the exception of tumours, peripheral nerves, muscles and the pituitary and pineal glands. This list of omission may seem unnecessarily long, but an explanation can easily be found why each chapter on these subjects has been left out. One fifth of the book is devoted to cell types and basic cellular reactions: these five chapters are up-to-date in concept and abundant in illustrations. Congenital malformations, perinatal neuropathology, inherited metabolic disorders and toxic-metabolic disorders are adequately covered in separate chapters. Not only Raine and Gregorios's account of the effects of systemic diseases on the central nervous system is both comprehensive and illuminating. The chapters on demyelinating diseases by Raine is excellent in bringing together all the relevant information from both clinical and experimental research. Two chapters deal with infections; one with viral and the other with bacterial, fungal and parasitic. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome makes its entry: it's importance in neurology, by causing persistent infection of the brain, cannot be underestimated.

It is a pity that there is no separate chapter on dementia. Although Alzheimer's disease merits special treatment by Terry in a concise and informative chapter, the other dementing conditions are dealt with under the heading of degenerative disorders and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease ends up with viral infections.

The chapters on circulatory disorders by Garcia and on cerebrospinal trauma by Hardman both follow a traditional pattern in describing these common disorders of the central nervous system.

The book is amply and well-illustrated. There are many electron micrographs; indeed, chapter I perhaps too many; unfortunately the same cannot be said about immunocytochemistry. A few more CT scans would also be in order. Overall, this book is a welcome addition to the neuropathologists' expanding library; it is recommended for histopathologists and clinicians alike.

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