

therefore be designated as "hyperthermic syndromes with impaired dopaminergic activity".

BOB J VAN HILTEN  
RAYMUND AC ROOS  
Department of Neurology,  
Leiden University Hospital,  
2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands

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### Sexual function in patients with Parkinson's disease

We read with interest the report by Brown *et al* on sexual function in patients with Parkinson's disease (PD) and their partners.<sup>1</sup> We have come to similar conclusions in our own work on the subject.<sup>2-4</sup>

Our study involved Parkinsonian men only (mean age 65.8) and compared them to a group of healthy elderly non-Parkinsonian men (mean age 70.4). Our finding of a prevalence of erectile dysfunction of 60.4% in the study group compared with 37.5% in the control group was significant and comparable to the figure of 60% by Brown *et al*. There were, however, a few differences. Our group was more than double the size, randomly selected and with an average age more representative of the Parkinsonian male population. Presence of dysautonomic symptoms, as also noted by Brown *et al*, length of levodopa therapy or age did not appear to be significant factors, since they were equally prevalent in dysfunctional and nondysfunctional patients. In our more recent report on a group of men in the early stages of PD,<sup>5</sup> where the prevalence of erectile dysfunction was lower (31%), we did not find depression as playing any role. Poor marital adjustment by the patients' wives, on the other hand, was frequently found, in agreement with the report of increased spousal strain.<sup>1</sup>

We think that PD represents a risk factor for development of erectile dysfunction. It is not clear to us whether the additional presence of other risk factors is required or whether PD alone can bring about the dysfunction. We think that severity of disease may play a role and we are not convinced depression may be important except in a minority of cases. We agree with Brown *et al* that all therapeutic modalities available to other couples should be offered to PD patients and their spouses. We would also advocate that such an offer be preceded by an equally thorough diagnostic evaluation looking for all known mechanisms of sexual dysfunction.

CARLOS SINGER  
WILLIAM J WEINER  
J SANCHEZ-RAMOS  
MARK ACKERMAN\*  
Departments of Neurology and Psychology,\*  
University of Miami, School of Medicine,  
Miami, Florida, USA

- 1 Brown RG, Jahanshahi M, Quinn N, Marsden CD. Sexual function in patients with Parkinson's disease and their partners. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1990;53:480-6.

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### Extracting the umlaut

Omitting the umlaut from Strüssler<sup>1</sup> further encourages the common but incorrect pronunciation as Strow rather than the correct Stroy.

WB MATTHEWS  
Sandford on Thames, Oxford

- 1 Hart J Jr, Gordon B. Early-onset dementia and extrapyramidal disease: clinicopathological variant of Berstmann-Strüssler-Sheinker or Alzheimer's disease? *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1990;53:932-4.

something in all circumstances: a symptom of the enthusiasm of the less experienced. The A to Z plan is at first sight user-friendly, but I found it irritating. "Acoustic nerve—see calorics, cranial nerves, hearing, vertigo; Meningioma—see computed tomography, tumour; Subarachnoid haemorrhage—see haemorrhage; Sydenham's chorea—see chorioathetosis" (sic).

The authors and editors have plainly laboured hard to distil so much practical information into so small a space. They are to be congratulated on the result which will be a popular and valuable aid to all juniors in the wards.

JMS PEARCE

**Tumour Stereotaxis.** By PATRICK J KELLY. (Pp 409 Illustrated; Price: £74.00.) 1991. London, W.B. Saunders Co. ISBN 0-7216-5360-X.

This is a major monograph by a single author who presents his personal experience of stereotactic neurosurgery for brain tumours in a lucid and authoritative way. He approaches the subject by way of a detailed historical introduction covering the personalities and stereotactic methods which have led up to the development of modern stereotactic instruments. The author describes all the most commonly used stereotactic systems but devotes most space to the philosophy behind the design and implementation of his own system, that is the Kelly-Goerss or Compass Instrument.

Other necessary requirements for contemporary stereotaxy are described. Thus, one chapter is devoted to features of operating theatre design to accommodate stereotactic work efficiently and another to the integration of the computer as a neurosurgical instrument. The author, and his colleagues in medical physics and computing, were pioneers in the use of neuro-imaging to control volumetric excision of brain tumours; employing stereotactic systems which allowed interaction between the surgeon and the diagnostic brain images available in the scanner to take place in real time during the course of a craniotomy performed under stereotactic conditions. This book is the operating manual for this system. The theoretical technical limits of accuracy achievable are discussed in depth and the reader is made aware of how practical answers to many problems have been arrived at. The clinical application to tumour biopsy and excision is described with reference to the author's very large clinical series and detailed descriptions are also provided of stereotactic third ventriculostomy and of stereotactic interstitial and external beam radiotherapy together with radiosurgery. The author describes and evaluates classical non-stereotactic neurosurgical operative techniques and demonstrates the particular indications for which stereotactic methods represent improvement in accuracy and lessened morbidity. He also makes the point that stereotactic surgery can save money in health care. In the final section he reviews future trends including robotic methods and holographic imaging displays.

This monograph is a *tour de force* by a leading stereotactic neurosurgeon, and will rank alongside that small number of similarly distinguished publications, including some

## BOOK REVIEWS

All titles reviewed here are available from the BMJ Bookshop, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE. Prices include postage in the United Kingdom and for members of the British Forces Overseas, but overseas customers should add £2 per item for postage and packing. Payment can be made by cheque in sterling drawn on a United Kingdom bank, or by credit card (Mastercard, Visa or American Express) stating card number, expiry date, and your full name.

**The Little Black Book of Neurology. A Manual for Neurologic House Officers 2nd Edition.** Philadelphia, Mosby Year Book. Edited by J S BONNER AND J J BONNER. (Pp 435; Price: £11.50.) London, Wolfe Publishing 1991. ISBN 0 8151 2321 3.

This 2nd edition succeeds Stephen Thurston's successful 1987 edition, written by residents for residents, in a format fit for the pocket of the white coat. It is a mine of concise, useful information, presented in staccato style, but quite intelligibly. The 47 tables and 42 figures are exceptionally useful condensations of material which the resident will need but will be unable to find quickly elsewhere. The contents are more or less comprehensive and cover all the emergencies and most of the "cold cases" a resident is likely to see in the wards or emergency room. The style is necessarily didactic and the advice generally sound though some will take exception to the apparent compulsion to do

It was a pleasure to find one chapter that was well written and helpful. This is the review by Louis Caplan, early in the book. Wise clinicians will only need to read this chapter to obtain a thorough but clear review of the subject. Clinical scientists will find little of value. That is especially so if they believe that clinicians now should be as critically scientific in their thought and writing as molecular biologists are said to be.

CMC ALLEN

**Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome: A Clinical Approach.** A Mosby Year Book. By G ADDONIZIO and VL SUSMAN. (Pp 167; Price £23.50). London, Wolfe Publishing Ltd, 1991. ISBN 0-8151-0055-8

There is undoubtedly a place for an authoritative review of this curious syndrome and the authors, who have already published a review of 115 cases, provide a well written account which will be of value to Psychiatrists and Neurologists. There are chapters dealing with the history, clinical features and pathophysiology, so that although the whole book can be read in a few hours, it may also be useful as a source for clinicians seeking guidance on the differential diagnosis or treatment of their patients.

It is, of course, not only neuroleptic drugs, (whatever that term means), which produce the condition but also, Metoclopramide, Lithium and even withdrawal of Dopa therapy. The identification of less typical cases is helpfully dealt with, and in a very useful chapter on treatment, the authors have assessed published accounts of different therapies, including ECT, and rational guidance is given. The condition is probably more widespread than we appreciate and those who have susceptible patients in their care may be stimulated by this book to study their cases and methods of treatment. There is a great deal that is not well understood and the syndrome may be a useful model for acute disturbance of Dopamine function in the nervous system.

MICHAEL H JOHNSON

**Comprehensive Atlas of Lumbar Spine Surgery.** By HARUO TSUJI. (Pp 327; Price £89.00). London, Wolfe Publishing, 1991. ISBN 0-8151-8937-0.

Acute back pain, or chronic backache, is the price the human race has to pay for adopting an erect posture. Twenty-six million working days in the U.K. are lost due to back pain. It is the most common cause of early retirement and costs the country more than £1,000,000 p.a.

Only a fraction of those suffering from back pain need surgery. However, the incidence of failed back syndrome is high and often due to the wrong diagnosis, inadequate patient selection, inadequate procedures, inadequate technique, and lack of commitment on the part of the surgeon. For these reasons, patients are often pushed around between various specialists.

This comprehensive Atlas of Lumbar Spine Surgery is written by a Japanese Orthopaedic Surgeon as a culmination of lecture

notes he made for his residents. The main strength of the book is graphical presentation of pathophysiology in degenerative lumbar disc disease and its comprehensive surgical treatment by the author after thirty years experience. This book is in fact one man's understanding of the problem and his method of dealing with it, irrespective of the consensus of views on the subject. The book is fortunately translated by an American Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery. Therefore, the philosophy of the author must have been well represented, although the hallmark of American English is quite evident.

The contents are divided into four parts: in Part 1 the general principles of low back surgery are outlined with the author's own drawings. I found it very useful for my own understanding. It would have been advantageous if the pathophysiological changes had been further illustrated with plain x-ray, myelography or MRI scan, to determine the indications and methods of surgery. In Part 2 the surgical instruments and various methods of bone grafting are depicted. Although neurosurgeons will find it less attractive I would have found it extremely useful had I been an orthopaedic surgeon. In Part 3, various methods of posterior lumbar surgery are well illustrated with diagrams and will be extremely useful to both neurosurgeons and orthopaedic surgeons. In Part 4, anterior lumbar disc surgery may be equally useful to orthopaedic surgeons, although hardly any neurosurgeon would undertake such a procedure.

Although I do not agree with the indications for some of the surgical approaches, I appreciate that a neurosurgeon's views may be equally unattractive to an orthopaedic surgeon. This does not diminish the importance of the book. It is a must in any orthopaedic departmental library. Neurosurgeons would do well to read this book where they will pick up many useful hints, and above all, they will learn how an orthopaedic surgeon understands the problem of disc surgery. As an Atlas it is very attractive, the drawings are quite clear and understandable. In these days of multiple author publications, it is refreshing to read one man's comprehensive views on such an important subject.

RP SENGUPTA

**Manual of Aphasia Therapy.** By NANCY HELM-ESTABROOKS AND MARTIN ALBERT. (Pp 279; Price \$24.00). 1991. Austin USA, Pro-Ed. ISBN 0-89079-404-9.

**Community Psychiatry** 1st edition. By D H BENNETT and H L FREEMAN. (Pp 704 Illustrated; Price: £49.50.) 1991 Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone. ISBN 0-443-03308-0.

**The International Classification of Sleep Disorders. Diagnostic and Coding Manual.** (Pp 396; Price \$49.95 (P/bk). Prices 20% higher outside the US and Canada.) Rochester, USA. American Sleep Disorders Assoc. 1990. ISBN 0 935868 48 8.

**Modular Deficits in Alzheimer-Type Dementia.** Edited by M F SCHWARTZ. (Pp 346; Price £40.50.) London, The MIT Press. 1990. ISBN 0 262 19298 5.

**Neural Monitoring. The Prevention of Intraoperative Injury.** Edited by S K SALZMAN. (Pp 322; Price £67.30.) New Jersey, Humana Press (UK Distributors—John Wiley & Sons Ltd). 1990. ISBN 0 89603 189 6.

**Neuroanatomy: An Atlas of Structures, Sections and Systems.** 3rd Edition. By Duane E Haines (Pp 252; Price: £19.00.) 1991. London: Williams & Wilkins Ltd. ISBN 068303815X.

**Purines: Basic and Clinical Aspects.** By T W STONE AND H A SIMMONDS. (Pp 257; Price Dfl 185.00, US\$ 125.00, UK£ 64.00). 1991. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers Group. ISBN 0792389255.

**Left Brain, Right Brain.** 3rd Edition. By S P SPRINGER AND G DEUTSCH. (Pp 394; Price £12.95.) New York, W H Freeman & Co Ltd, UK Distribution. Marston Book Services Ltd, Oxford. 1989. ISBN 9 7167 2000 0.

This is an interesting survey of the history, development and clinical problems of hemisphere asymmetry in man and animals. It is written by non-medical scientists and provides a number of provocative conceptual dilemmas for the interested reader.

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## SHORT NOTICES

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**Cognitive Changes in Epilepsy: A Ten-Year Follow-Up: Helsinki 1991.** By Hely Kalska. (Pp 85; price not indicated.)

Copies can be obtained from Academic Bookstore, PO Box 101 28, SF-00101 Helsinki, Finland. Published by The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters. ISBN 951 653 219 5.

**Handbook of Psychiatric Drug Therapy.** 2nd Edition. A Little, Brown Handbook. By G W Arana and S E Hyman. (Pp 198; Price £14.95.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone 1991. ISBN 0 316 04938 7.