
This latest addition to the series of "Modern Neuroradiology" maintains the high standard of the preceding volumes. It presents a comprehensive account of the subject in a most accessible form and is an excellent reference work. The contributors to this book have been particularly careful to provide a comprehensive account of the subject matter and to discuss the clinical applications of the various techniques. The result is a well-balanced and comprehensive volume that will be of great value to both radiologists and clinicians.

JOYCE L DUNLOP


This book is written by a Paediatric Neurologist under the auspices of the International Child Neurology Association, whose aim is to "improve the quality of care of children and neurologists, and to promote scientific exchange around the world..." The book is addressed "first and foremost to Child Neurologists and Neurosurgeons". The book is a compendium of the many and usually incredibly rare pathologies that can affect the spinal cord in childhood. Most of the chapters are written by the author, but four chapters, on pathology, neurosurgery, and "surgeries" (e.g. radiation and chemotherapy) were mainly by North American authors. Fred Epstein's chapter on radiotherapy is refreshing: his first hand experience comes over in the didactic manner we have come to expect from him. Epstein would give the recurrent or malignant astrocytomata radiotherapy, but otherwise radiotherapy is given the thumbs down for spinal cord gliomas. The Radiotherapists on the other hand, advocate radiotherapy routinely after glioma surgery and chemotherapy for "salvage". I wonder if they would give their own children chemotherapy for "salvage". I wouldn't.

Apart from Epstein's chapter, this is not a book for Neurosurgeons, who anyway will have read about Epstein's views and techniques elsewhere. What we have is a compendium of rarities, written for the most part, it seems, without the soreness of touch "hands on" experience. I wonder when Paediatric Neurologists will stop equating professional skill with an encyclopaedic knowledge of rarities? I want a paediatric Neurologist to be interested in, and kind to, children, to be able to talk to parents and to show commonsense. Yet in this book, there is no chapter on the clinical symptoms or signs of spinal tumours; there is nothing about caring for children or showing their parents; there is nothing about rehabilitation and no balanced assessment or guidance as to the relative advantages and disadvantages of surgery and radiotherapy for spinal cord gliomas. A chapter on how to stop the bereaved parents would also be helpful.

This is a book for those paediatric Neurologists who want to impress by trotting out 13 different types of soft tissue sarcomas. For those who aren't impressed by this approach, give it a miss.

C.B.T. ADAMS


In the past, authorities working on this side of the Atlantic have found literature coming from the New World on Schizophrenia to be somewhat woolly, non-scientific and diagnostically over-inclusive. This criticism could not apply to Irving Gottesman's Schizophrenia Genesis, The Origins of Madness. The author himself comes from an unusual background, he is described in the American Medical Directory as a retired General Practitioner. We are told in his book that he is both a Professor of Paediatrics and also of Psychology and an elected Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. From this wide range of experience he sets out to separate fact from fiction. The book will appeal to a variety of readers. The history of the illness, its diagnosis, epidemiology, demography, inheritance and environmental stresses would be of general interest. The anguish describes the personal accounts of the symptoms would probably appeal more to non-professional readers, perhaps patients and their families. It also holds much of interest for all members of the caring professions. To a Psychiatrist, his description of genetic and environmental research is comprehensive and more recent neurological investigations fascinating. His anguished voices describing personal experiences attempting to counsel relatives and perhaps couples with a relevant family history contemplating marriage.

The book ends on a note of optimism, whilst still admitting that formidable problems remain. It strikes a note of encouragement towards resolving what may hopefully prove to be a preventable as well as a treatable illness.

JOYCE L DUNLOP

with useful summaries (though unillustrated) of examination of individual muscles, and of the various entrapment syndromes, and each chapter has two or three references for advised further reading.

"Entrapment Neuropathies" is a much more detailed book, extending well beyond its title, beautifully produced and written for those who wish to delve much deeper into the subject. Profusely illustrated, and with good clear diagrams of the anatomy, the very readable text includes excellent summaries of symptomatic diseases capable of mimicking entrapments. Particularly valuable are the pages differentiating the carpal tunnel syndrome from cervical spondylitic disease, and co-existing with spondylosis—the "double crush" syndrome which hasn't achieved too widespread recognition in this country. Amongst the excellent illustrations of physical signs they emphasise many important little details, of great value at the bedside, such as that cervical spondylotic rarely produces sensory splitting of the 4th digit. Photographs taken at operation are not as clear, and one wonders if their value justifies the space they occupy. The authors apparently prefer epicondylectomy to transposition in ulnar nerve lesions at the elbow but they, indeed both books, lay surprisingly little importance on pre-existing cubitus valgus in these cases. It is surprising to read that carpal tunnel syndrome is common in golfers, without any mention of the much more common "golfers' elbow." Some neurologists might also be confused to find ulnar nerve compression at the wrist in occupational trauma referred to as the Ramsay Hunt syndrome, but on the other hand cheer-leaders' and surfers' neuropathy, and video-game palsy, are new syndromes to most of us. One sympathises with the helpfulness they feel in trying to treat successfully a compensable occupational neuropathy; and in chronic cases, particularly in low morale occupations, they recommend giving up and concentrating on helping to get financial settlement. The section dealing with dystonias, other than writer's cramp is very interesting; these are specific to certain occupations. As many of these are among much is well referenced and easily accessed through a good index.

The book can be divided into three main sections. The longest of these, dealing with magnetic resonance imaging constitutes well over half of the book. About one third is devoted to computed tomography and one sixth to ultrasound examination. In each section technology is discussed followed by anatomy and oculovisual and orbital pathologies. All the sections are heavily illustrated with a wealth of well chosen images of the highest quality produced on modern equipment.

The chapters on computed tomography as acknowledged by the editors were previously published in Vol. 3. This is considered appropriate in order to bring together in a single volume all the diagnostic modalities which should be of interest to ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons and general radiologists as well as to neuroscientists and in particular neuroradiologists to whom the previous volumes were more relevant. The republished chapters remain state of the art.

The book is strongly recommended to all clinicians and radiologists with an interest in orbital pathology but it will be particularly valuable in neuroimaging departments.

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