Menkes’ textbook will continue to provide a valuable source of basic information in relation to a broad range of paediatric neurology disorders. Inevitably for more detailed information on some topics the reader may turn to more specialised books on those subjects.

V DUBOWITZ


This book provides more than its title suggests. Not only does it deal comprehensively with the therapeutics of diseases of the nervous system, but also it contains much material concerning neurochemistry and neuropathology including animal work relevant to clinical therapeutics.

The first section considers basic principles of drug action and pharmacokinetics. Disorders of neurological function are separated into diseases of the nervous system. Thus, sleep disorders, epilepsy, head-ache, abnormal movement disorders and many other conditions are separated from the final section where the treatment of infections of the nervous system, demyelinating diseases etc are considered. This format can be confusing. An accurate index becomes important and unfortunately the index leaves much to be desired. For example the main section on Valproate in the treatment of epilepsy starts on page 112 but this page is not mentioned in the index. Lamotrigine is indexed at pages 54 (GABA receptors) and 158 (chapter-end references) such that its index appears primarily at page 130. And “slip-page” of pagination seems to have occurred, at least between page 182 and page 221 where everything appears one page earlier than shown in the index.

This book is written by an eminent team of Australian physicians and surgeons. It is up to date and contains a wealth of information. Its handsome format cannot be said to be overpriced. It will provide a valuable source of information to the practising neurologist.

RB GODWIN-AUSTEN


This is the third edition in 12 years of a book whose popularity rests on its clear and relevant accounts of modern neurophysiological and clinical neurological practice. The editor and the authors of the 27 chapters provide intelligent, well-written and admirably illustrated contributions. The book is of greatest value to the reader who already has a sound understanding of the basic scientific fundamentals in the field. A wide range of clinical material is covered: in addition to the expected neurological topics, there is some extension into the fields of paediatrics and surgical monitoring. Also given, are fair critiques of newer technologies such as topographic mapping, extensive material on, for example, blink reflex studies, electroretinography and electroneystagmography as clinical tests, and a thoroughly rational and up to date review on brain death.

Mary Brazier, in her authoritative introductory chapter, gives an engaging account of the emergence of electrophysiology as an aid to neurology. She cites much interesting and unexpected detail such as the account of the daughter of Carl Linnaeus observing the apparent flashes of light given off by orange marigolds and fire-flies at twilight in their Uppsala garden but com- mends Goethe for demonstrating that this was a retinal phenomenon and not an electrical flash. A 1786 drawing by Dubs- ois-Reymond shows Galvani experimenting out-side his house—the precise street (Strada San Felice in Bologna) being identified in the legend to make our travels more inter- esting.

It is an unusual pleasure to peruse this book afresh and to note the advances since the last edition.

PAMELA PRIOR


The 5th edition, eight years after the last, and 34 years after the first edition and the year of J G Greenfield’s death has been enormously updated with an influx of new talent both from the fields of pathology and research orientated clinicians. To see such changes in an eight year period is always a reassuring sign that we really are making progress. This latest edition of this standard work is an extraordinary achievement for which the editors and authors deserve much credit. Undoubtedly, several of the chapters will be considered luminary works and excellent sources of information and references for several years. From a clinician’s bias, not surprisingly, some of the most successful chapters are those in which clinician and pathologist are joint authors. The whole range of neuropathology with the exception of tumours is covered and includes chapters on the pathophysiology of raised intracranial pressure, lysosomal disorders, nutritional deficiencies and metabolic and toxic dis- orders and epilepsy. The edges of any subject are a danger zone in such books and a firmer line about what is to be covered in each chapter may need to be undertaken.

For instance, issues on brain banking for neurochemistry and much of chemical path- ology, at least for the commoner disorders, is only covered erratically. Similarly, the mole- cular basis in certain instances, is cribbed rather than dealt with in depth. Under- standably, some background may be neces- sary for pathologists reading the book but if these aspects are going to be covered comprehensively, more extensive chapter collabora- tions will be needed. Having said that, reading this book was enormously educa- tional for this reviewer. When one comes across areas in one’s own expertise, there are often an alarming number of inaccuracies or the information is sourced dated or improperly referenced. One other surprise was how few colourful neuropathology demonstrations are there.

Despite certain caveats, there is no doubt that all clinical departments of neurology and neuroscience should have this book easily available.

A WILLIAMS


This multi-author volume has been kept to a uniform and high standard by the Editors. The opening chapters describe the physics of CT, MRI, PET and SPECT with useful technical comments on the cause and appearance of artefacts. The nine chapters that follow describe the appearances of these four techniques as they are applied to neurological problems such as strokes, tumours, epilepsy, dementia, cerebellar and paediatric disor- ders. Helpful flow charts are offered in many sections of the book but frequently include somewhat unusual advice: for example MRI is stated to be the examination of choice for epilepsy, followed by CT if a mass is found.

Furthermore, there is an assumption that PET is, and indeed should be, a routine clinical test but nowhere there is a definite indication of circumstances in which PET is the sole discriminating test. The recommenda- tion of angiography in the preoperative assessment of cerebral malformations also would not find support in the UK. The use of isotope studies in dementia and cerebro- vascular disease is well explained and illustrated and the refreshing use of colour brightens the text. Each chapter is extensively referenced but for a publication dated 1992 disappointingly few references are after 1989. Even the final chapter: Epilogue: Future Visions, includes only four references from the 1990’s.

Overall the book is sound, correct, well laid out and illustrated, but it lacks the sparkle and stimulus that could have enhanced this essentially technically based approach to brain imaging. The ideal reader for the text has not been identified but it would form a good introduction for a trainee in any of the clinical neurosciences as well as for specialist radiologists. However, for “state of the art” information about clinical practice a reader will need to consult a more recent publica- tion.

ET TEASDALE

Correction


We would however like to point out that the ISBN quoted is for the paper back edition published 13 April 1992 and not 1989. A cloth edition 471 91270 0 was published 29 March 1989.