
The book claims to take a “neuro-medical” approach to the problems of sexual dysfunction which is an important distinction from other texts available which have mostly been written by urologists with titles like “Impotence: A Problem in Sexual Intercourse” with an account of the sexual response cycle in the two genders and there are nine pages about this in women and seven pages in men. This sets the tone for the rest of the book which gives due attention to the female perspective throughout. It is a multi-author book written by 31 North American authors and there is a strong neurological component.

Several chapters are particularly illuminating. For example the introduction of intracorporal injections for the treatment of erectile difficulties has lessened the need for nocturnal penile tumescence studies but the type of continuing referrals to the laboratory are “complex cases, legal, physicians, foreign dignitaries and celebrities”. It is interesting to read how this means of research became possible—it has certainly contributed greatly to research.

Throughout the book an utterly professional tone is adopted but a glimmer of humour breaks through when discussing the possibly less impressive matter of premature ejaculation. The authors postulate it is due to “a tendency to ejaculate at lower levels of sexual arousal. One possible mechanism is a lower rate of sexual intercourse as compared to control subjects, a notion with obvious therapeutic implications”.

There is very sensible advice on the problem of impotence in men urging clinicians to recognise the various underlying possible organic causes rather than diagnose psychogenic disorders. Inevitably the equivalent chapter about women veers towards examining female sexuality and the feminist scholar’s view of the body image issue, but this is not the fault of the author, rather the dearth of knowledge about medical disorders that effect the female sexual response. There is a balanced view of when neurophysiological changes are contributory—a subject which has been given extensive coverage by scribblings in urological journals.

In general this is a very complete account of the problem written from a neurological point of view and therefore of considerable interest to readers of this journal who wish to know more about the subject.

CLARE FOWLER


In a series of books designed to help physicians who grapple with the problem of neurological disease on a daily basis,” it is probably appropriate that movement disorders should have so far taken up three of the four tomes of Butterworth Heinemann’s International Medical Review series. The treatment of Parkinson’s disease forms a substantial part of the average working neurologist’s clinic time, whilst rarer movement disorders such as paroxysmal kinesigenic choreoathetosis and dentato-rubropallidotidiosyn synkinesias are well served in this volume. However, there is a need for a work which approaches the topic from the perspective of the clinical neurologist, meeting the most common presentations in clinical practice. It is here that Movement Disorders III becomes an essential tool. This is a book written from the perspective of the individual patient and his or her family, rather than an academic authority. It makes the point that Parkinson’s disease is a multifaceted disorder in the context of which other neurological disorders can be considered.

The spine of my copy of Movement Disorders 1 is bleached green from the sun, but the book is still in good condition and it is still a useful reference, especially regarding the distinction between Parkinson’s disease and multiple system atrophy. This distinction and the use of dopa is considered in chapter 37 which discusses the treatment of the condition. The other chapters also cover the management of the condition, with particular emphasis on the role of levodopa in the management of the disease. The book also discusses the role of other drugs in the management of Parkinson’s disease, such as anticholinergics, dopamine agonists, and selegiline. The book also discusses the use of deep brain stimulation and other surgical treatments for Parkinson’s disease.

The book is well-written and is easy to read. It is aimed at clinicians who have an interest in the management of Parkinson’s disease and related disorders. It is also a useful reference for patients and their families who wish to understand more about the condition.

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