
This is an introductory text of about 200 pages with more than 200 references, written by a neurologist with considerable experience in the basic principles of the EEG and its clinical application. It contains an accessible description of the physics of EEG acquisition and of the resultant wave forms. The clinical section is necessarily concise for the size of book. Some important points are highlighted in capitals which is probably unnecessary for most readers. There is a final chapter covering topics of special interest which includes a North American view of medico-legal aspects. For neurologists in training, therefore, this provides a simple and brief introduction to the basic principles of EEG.

SIMON BONIFACE


It is always a pleasure to read a textbook that has obviously been written by practising clinicians with hands-on experience of the subject matter. This book comes from an institution that has seen an enormous quantity of HIV disease, and provides a comprehensive yet readable reference source which rarely strays from being genuinely useful.

The book as a whole is well structured; apart from dealing with every aspect of the general management of HIV patients, specific opportunistic infections and malignancies, there are sections on global epidemiology and preventative, legal and ethical issues. There is also a concise and well written account of the molecular virology of HIV with sufficient detail to allow the “non-molecular” clinician to understand issues of pathogenesis, antiretroviral therapy and vaccine design. The quality of individual chapters and articles is very high; in particular they are rarely overlong, so that it is easy to find answers to specific clinical questions. Some of the material on legal and economic issues is specific to the United States, but this represents a very small proportion of the book; the sections on prevention, education and ethical issues contain much that is relevant to British or European patients.

Colour plates in textbooks can be helpful and unobtrusive, but this book provides an exception with a small collection of clear and genuinely useful photographs. The remainder of the text is singularly lacking in illustrations. Personally I welcome this move away from the trend towards “Art for art’s sake” in medical publication, and back to the presentation of relevant and up to date information in a digestible and systematic manner.


This multi-authored American textbook sets out to address the imbalance which the editor believes is present in the teaching of today’s medical students, namely, that in contrast to the large amount of scientific information to be learnt regarding disease processes, there is little time allocated to teaching students fundamental principles of human behaviour and psychological aspects of patient care.

The book concentrates on five areas of interest. Early chapters discuss issues regarding the doctor-patient relationship and are helpfully illustrated with case histories. Important issues such as the role of stress, culture and ethnicity are discussed clearly and concisely. The second section of the book introduces the two major schools of psychological theories of human behaviour: psychoanalytical, and behavioural. Section three describes normal human development through the life-cycle and includes excellent chapters on adolescence and the family. The penultimate section is an introduction to the biological basis of human behaviour and psychiatry. These comprehensive and excellent chapters are said to be a “prodrome to the concluding chapter” entitled “Supportive psychological care of the medically ill: A synthesis of the biopsychosocial approach in medical care”. It is a pity, therefore that this chapter works less well. After such depth and erudition in earlier chapters it seems somewhat superfluous by contrast, perhaps reflecting the rather early stage in the development of “a true psychobiological integration of the behavioural sciences”.

This book provides an excellent introduction to human behaviour for medical students but also has much to offer junior psychiatrists and allied mental health professionals.

CAROL GREGORY


It has become clear that structural and functional imaging are complementary in...