

- A neat table defining the familial risk of disease development from the index case
- Common questions and their pragmatic answers covering scenarios such as the effects of pregnancy, vaccination and anaesthetic on the patient
- The newly updated McDonald criteria
- The pros and cons of the different β interferons or glatiramer and the recent monoclonal antibody studies
- The vital links that need to be established and maintained between secondary and community services.

Of course, many excellent and deeply crafted works on multiple sclerosis are already in print, in addition to the hundreds of papers published each year (I found about 2000 papers on a simple PubMed search for 2005), but perhaps that is just the point about this small book. For the registrar seeing his or her first patients with the disease; for the consultant who needs answers to the tricky questions that are often asked at the end of the consultation; and even I would suggest, for patients who need a little more than access to a website as they start to ruminate on the difficult questions, in between the 6-month outpatient appointments. For all these different needs this slim volume has a role in alleviating, to some extent, the problems and worries of this unpleasant and enigmatic disease.

J Chataway

Handbook of Neurologic Rating Scales, 2nd edn.

Edited by R M Herndon. Published by Demos Medical, New York, 2006, £82.25 (hardcover), pp 434. ISBN 1-888799-92-7.

Rating scales now have an established role as primary and secondary outcome measures for clinical studies. They are also frequently used in clinical practice. Consequently, data generated by rating scales will increasingly influence patient care, prescribing and policy. There fore, clinicians need to take their rating scales very seriously.

Herndon's book is a welcomed addition to my shelf. It has 17 chapters, 15 of which give accounts of rating scales by diagnosis (eg, multiple sclerosis, stroke), clinical problem (eg, headache, movement disorders, ataxia)

or treatment (eg, rehabilitation). Each chapter has an introduction, details about the development and evaluation of a range of rating scales and assessment methods, and a short summary.

The strong points of the book are that it brings together a large number of scales, and for each gives an overview under a series of consistent headings: validation, administration and scoring, advantages, disadvantages and summary. In doing so, it gives clinicians a compendium of scales with useful evaluations and references. In addition, a great feature is that exhibits from the book—pdf copies of scales—can be downloaded. This will save considerable time and avoid the sad situation when rating scales are typed out inaccurately (oh yes, it does happen!).

Some of the limitations of the book are obvious and are covered in Robert Herndon's preface. Firstly, this is by no means an exhaustive list of rating scales. It couldn't be—the field is changing fast, with scales being published regularly. So readers need to supplement this with other sources including, for example, the database of patient-reported outcome and quality-of-life instruments (ProQolid; www.proqolid.org). Secondly, the evaluations of the scales listed are often fairly brief, so again these may need to be supplemented by further exploration.

From my perspective, the book has another limitation. It would benefit from chapters on rating scale theory and a practical guide to scale selection. Hopefully, these will appear in the next edition. That being said, I think Robert Herndon has achieved his goal of producing a valuable text for those planning clinical trials and those wishing to have a better understanding of their meaning.

J C Hobart

Surgical and medical treatment in art

Edited by Alan E H Emery, Marcia L H Emery. Published by The Royal Society of Medicine Press, London, 2006, £45.00 (hardcover), pp 139. ISBN 1-85315-695-7.

The interface between medicine and art has always been blurred, particularly with the work of such famous men as Leonardo da Vinci, whose 15th century drawings of the human body would not be out of place in a modern-day anatomy textbook. Consequently, a book such as this, which

portrays how artists have depicted medical and surgical therapies over the centuries, will appeal to anyone who is interested in both medicine and art.

The book is presented as a series of colour plates covering a wide range of styles and techniques and spanning a period from ancient Egyptian murals to modern works based on cytogenetics. The artists include several artistically talented medics, artist patients depicting their own experiences and famous artists well known to us all. The pictures range from being realistic to those which are bizarre caricatures, and, although some are merely factual, others convey emotions, such as humour, despair, desperation and resignation. Each artwork is accompanied by a short treatise giving information on the artist and describing the relevance of the work.

This book is a companion to a previous volume *Medicine in art* by the same authors. The book is well researched and the authors' passion for medicine and art shines through. There are some high-profile omissions (eg, Hogarth's painting on Christ healing the sick at "The Pool of Bethesda"), but this is inevitable given the size of the book. Some of the works are portraits depicting famous physicians or surgeons of their time and so are only loosely related to "treatment". Each of the artworks is reproduced to a high standard, making the book aesthetically very attractive.

This is a book for dipping into rather than for daily use but, like books on medical quotations, it is definitely worth a place in the library of those whose interest in medicine goes beyond the mundane.

M Rose, P Domizio

CORRECTION

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N Arai, C Shikai, S Fuse, *et al.* Severe amnesia after a restricted lesion in the left hippocampal body (*J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 2006;**77**:1196–7). The corresponding author, Y Sakurai, should have appeared in the author list. The correct author list is: N Arai, Y Sakurai, C Shikai, S Fuse, and T Shimpo. We apologise for this error.