

BOOK REVIEWS

Parkinson's Disease: Diagnosis and Clinical Management, Stewart A. Factor & William J. Weiner, eds, pp. 716, 2002. Price \$175.00, ISBN: 1-888799-50-1. Demos, New York.

This comprehensive book on Parkinson's disease deserves to become a standard reference volume in every clinical library. It covers a wide range of topics in the diagnosis and treatment of parkinsonism. It is up-to-date and has good reference selections. The book begins with three historical essays and a timeline of the most important steps in the development of the understanding of the pathophysiology and treatment of parkinsonism. I found Christopher Goetz's chapter on Charcot and Parkinson's disease very witty and it ought to be interesting to everyone who practices neurology. The book covers the symptoms associated with parkinsonism and its treatment in separate chapters. This is also the case for the different drugs and surgical modes of treatment. The important

problem of which drug to use in *de novo* patients has been touched upon in the writings on treatment with levodopa and dopamine agonists, but the book lacks a more complete survey and practical advice on drug treatment. The book ends with four important chapters on social issues: quality of life, economical aspects, family care-giving and driving. All illustrations are in black and white and they are not abundant, except in the chapter on Charcot. I guess that this is a strategy designed to keep the price down. Most chapters are well-written and easy to read. This book should be an excellent clinical companion for many years to come.

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The Spinal Cord Injured Patient, Bok Y. Lee & Lee E. Ostrander, eds, pp. 448, 2002. Price \$125.00, ISBN: 1-888799-51-X. Demos, New York.

This is a textbook to be read with great attention. The 26 chapters together cover almost all aspects of the comprehensive management of spinal cord injured patients. Many of the chapter authors are among the most experienced clinicians within the field of spinal cord injury treatment and have contributed important scientific knowledge to this field. However, the authors do not all try to set out evidence-based knowledge as internationally accepted today, but rather their own opinions on a specific topic.

The contents of some chapters are highly detailed (e.g. chapters on renal failure, hand surgery and functional electrical stimulation). Other chapters are limited but to the point (e.g. spinal cord injury rehabilitation) and others are somewhat superficial or not up-to-date (e.g. body composition and endocrine profile). One might wonder why the chapter on omental transposition is included. The titles of some chapters do not sufficiently describe the subject matter. The references in many chapters are not up-to-date. Indeed, the reader might wonder if the

second edition is too much like the first. Figures and illustrations are not of good quality and the quality of the book's production as a whole does not match up to its price.

The book contains much useful information, not least from a practical clinical point of view, and it is important that such information is read by young doctors going into this field. The reader, however, must be critical since what he or she reads might be the opinion of an individual expert and not generally accepted facts.

In conclusion the book can be recommended despite the concerns expressed above.

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Manual of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Christopher M. Brammer & M. Catherine Spires, eds, pp. 489, 2002. Price \$45.00. ISBN: 1-56053-479-6. Hanley & Belfus, Inc.: Philadelphia.

The editors of this book have stated their aims on the back cover. One of their aims is to present a practical clinical guide for all those involved in the rehabilitation of patients with acute and chronic impairments. This is essentially a large pocket book, which is designed to be user-friendly to give ready access to essential information. Each chapter has the same layout, with headings, subheadings and numbered sections. A broad range of areas of rehabilitation is covered. The first focuses on the rehabilitation patients, with 10 chapters on different pathologies that are often encountered in rehabilitation. The second deals with medical considerations in the rehabilitation patient, again in 10 chapters. The third deals with therapeutic interventions.

The authors aim to cover a wide subject area in this small book. This means that the pages are thin and the text is small. The book is written

from the American perspective. Certain procedures are quite rare among rehabilitation specialists in Europe, such as caudal epidural injections. The pharmacology is American and recommendations are not the same as in Europe. The social-cultural context is also very strong when it comes to mobility aids, orthoses and prostheses. It is obvious that the different system for payment and reimbursement of the physician and the staff influences common practice.

To conclude, this book might fill a place the USA, but cannot be recommended for physicians in training in Europe.

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