

ment with balanced reviews of the management of Alzheimer's disease in the community and in institutions that care for those with dementia. Its careful and cautious but upbeat approach will surely help in combating the defeatist outlook on Alzheimer's disease in many medical and nonmedical circles.

The book is generally up to date and well balanced. The description of some important areas, however, particularly in the field of molecular genetics, is not completely current. For example, recent findings concerning the apolipoprotein E genotype and chromosome 1 mutation, which may have important implications with respect to the cause and diagnosis of dementia, are hardly discussed.

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NEUROLOGY AND TRAUMA

By Randolph W. Evans. 663 pp., illustrated.
Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1996. \$95.
ISBN 0-7216-4352-3.

THIS book is an excellent review of the neurology of trauma. It addresses neurologists, neurosurgeons, and emergency medicine physicians. There are comprehensive sections on head trauma, spinal trauma, plexus and peripheral-nerve injuries, post-traumatic pain syndromes, environmental trauma, post-traumatic sequelae, and medicolegal aspects.

Strategies for the rapid diagnosis and management of head injury are well discussed, including historical aspects of cerebral trauma and post-traumatic syndromes. There is appropriate attention to post-traumatic sequelae with regard to the neurobehavioral, neuropsychological, and cognitive outcome. This particular aspect of head-injury treatment is not well discussed in the literature, but this book presents the issues completely and concisely. There is also an excellent chapter on the medical complications of head injury. The chapter on neuroimaging and closed head trauma has illustrative examples of contemporary imaging techniques, including computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and magnetic resonance angiography.

The section on spinal trauma is equally comprehensive and complete. Discussion of the technical aspects of surgical treatment of spinal injury is appropriately lacking. The evaluation and management of post-traumatic sequelae of low back pain and neck pain are discussed in one chapter. An informative chapter on the management of sports-related neck and back injuries is included.

A separate section on post-traumatic pain syndromes takes up difficult issues, such as whiplash injuries, myofascial pain syndromes, and reflex sympathetic dystrophy and causalgia. These syndromes can prove to be challenging diagnostic and treatment problems, and this section provides a concise and informative guide for the clinician. The section on environmental trauma is esoteric, but comprehensive with regard to high-altitude injuries, diving injuries, neurologic changes related to space travel, and injuries caused by lightning and electricity.

The medicolegal aspects of neurology and injury often concern clinicians. The chapter on the physician as expert witness is a readable source of appropriate guidelines. Additional chapters, including those on the determination of competency in the brain-injured person and on pain and the tort law, address specialized neurologic practice and the interface between the medical and legal aspects of post-traumatic injuries.

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NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS: COURSE AND TREATMENT

Edited by Thomas Brandt, Louis R. Caplan, Johannes Dichgans,
H. Christoph Diener, and Christopher Kennard. 1150 pp.,
illustrated. San Diego, Calif., Academic Press, 1996. \$139.95.
ISBN 0-12-125830-0.

THIS book, the combined effort of 136 authors in 95 chapters, covers a broad spectrum of neurologic disorders. After I read it, the days seemed distant when neurology was considered a specialty with an intricate nosology, an abundance of clinical names, and a notorious lack of remedies. *Neurological Disorders: Course and Treatment* is a fine effort that brings together not only a wealth of treatments for neurologic disorders, but also data of enormous value for decision making. It even provides elements for discussion between the clinician and the patient on the important issue of cost and benefit.

The design of the chapters is astute. Most begin with a brief description of the clinical aspects, followed by an account of the natural course of the disease, including the prognosis, symptoms, and complications. This prepares the reader for a tour of the therapeutic possibilities and their limitations. The chapters end, when pertinent, with documented discussions of treatments no longer recommended. This last section is a useful contribution to neurology, because the relatively recent introduction of numerous approaches to complex disorders has led to confusing therapeutic claims that are soon abandoned or whose initial rates of success are largely tempered in subsequent studies.

An example is the chapter on multiple sclerosis. After a detailed description of most kinds of therapy and their applications to the different forms of the disease, the authors enumerate the limitations of the available treatments and give a clear, measured statement that all are far from ideal. For such disorders as malignant brain tumors, this book gives the pros and cons of conservative and aggressive therapeutic approaches and discusses their effect on the unfavorable course of the neoplasms.

This is an international book that portrays practices in Europe and North America. For neurologists in other parts of the world, it is certainly a welcome experience. Besides chapters on common neurologic entities, this book includes discussions of topics not usually covered in textbooks on therapeutics, such as the restless legs syndrome, cramps, and neural prostheses. Particularly useful is a sec-

tion on intensive care in neurology, with chapters devoted to topics found mostly in neurosurgical textbooks.

A chapter on the neurologic side effects of most families of drugs is easy to consult. Appendixes explain the drugs and their proprietary names, as well as the applications of each in various neurologic disorders. Well-selected references give a balanced view of each disease, particularly those in which substantial controversies about therapeutics remain.

In the everyday practice of neurology, depression and psychosomatic symptoms constitute a considerable proportion of cases in outpatient clinics; headache, dizziness, sleep disturbances, back pain, and vague symptoms due to chronic depression are a very frequent challenge. I suggest that future editions include a chapter on depression in the section on cognitive and behavioral disorders. Also, malnutrition, which is prevalent in vast areas of the world, causes important brain dysfunction and neurologic sequelae; a chapter on this topic would improve the usefulness of the book in developing countries.

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DISORDERS OF THE VESTIBULAR SYSTEM

Edited by Robert W. Baloh and G. Michael Halmagyi.

687 pp., illustrated. New York, Oxford University Press, 1996. \$135.
ISBN 0-19-509006-3.

VERTIGO, dizziness, and balance disorders occur in many sometimes very different diseases. More than 100 pathologic conditions can cause these disorders, so nearly all medical specialties have to deal with them.

This book describes in detail the anatomy, physiology, and physical mechanisms. The many contributing authors do not share the same opinions, but this adds to the value of the book, which makes clear that there is no consensus about many aspects of the vestibular system.

The section on clinical evaluation and the descriptions of the many diseases in which vestibular problems such as vertigo and dizziness occur provide good guidance. The simple vestibular tests and the essential features of bedside examination are clearly presented.

The chapters entitled "Vestibular Tests in Evolution" discuss otolith tests, which are not of great value for the clinician (with otolith tests an examination is done of the part of the vestibular system responsible for the detection of linear accelerations). Examination of eye movements is still the most important technique for evaluating oculomotor function. Oculovestibular reflexes offer an entry to highly developed parts of the oculomotor system. Several chapters deal with aspects of ocular-vestibular interactions and give a clear overview of the state of the art. There is much attention to diagnostics, including imaging techniques and audiometry, with illustrative cases.

There are very good chapters. Some, however, are not up to current standards. The chapter on Ménière's disease does not give information on the original cases and on the history of this condition. The method for reporting treatment results in Ménière's disease published by the Ameri-

can Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology in 1972 is discussed extensively; however, there is no mention of the 1995 guidelines.

In the past decade, theories about motion sickness have changed considerably, and agreement on its origin, treatment, and prevention is developing. It is thus regrettable that the authors of this chapter do not take into account important articles published in the past five years. The paragraph on treatment and prevention lacks a summary of the most common drugs in use and general measures for prevention. The most popular drugs for motion sickness are not even mentioned.

Therapy for vertigo embraces drug treatment, adaptation exercises, and surgery. The choice depends not only on the type and origin of the disorder, but also on the opinion and skills of the doctor. The book makes clear that a consensus is still far away.

The book is valuable for all physicians who deal with vertigo and dizziness. Scientists interested in the vestibular system will find a lot of valuable information.

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NOTICES

Notices submitted for publication should contain a mailing address and phone number of a contact person or department. We regret we are unable to publish all notices received.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The City of Medicine Awards Program, Durham, North Carolina, is accepting nominations for its "1997 City of Medicine Awards," which recognize major discoveries in medical research; philanthropy or other exceptional achievements in the medical, hospital and health care fields; and exemplary efforts to improve the availability, accessibility, and affordability of good medical care. Deadline for submission is March 20.

Contact CMAP, 3020 Pickett Rd., #758, Suite 145, Durham, NC 27705; or call (919) 493-0614; or fax (919) 493-1057.

MASSACHUSETTS EARLY INTERVENTION CONSORTIUM

The "18th Annual Conference," entitled "Looking Forward — Looking Back: Early Intervention in Evolution," will be held in Sturbridge, Mass., April 1 and 2.

Contact Univ. of Massachusetts Medical Ctr., Office of Cont. Educ., 120 Front St., Suite 800, Worcester, MA 01608; or call (508) 856-1671; or fax (508) 856-6838.

CAMBRIDGE HEALTHTECH INSTITUTE

The following conferences will be held: "Blood Safety and Screening" (McLean, Va., April 14–16); "New Cancer Strategies: p53 Diagnostics and Therapeutics" (Washington, D.C., April 21 and 22); "Functional Genomics: From Genes to Drugs" (Washington, D.C., April 17 and 18); and "Molecular Evolution" (Boston, April 24 and 25).

Contact CHI, 1037 Chestnut St., Newton Upper Falls, MA 02164; or see <http://www.healthtech.com/conferences/>; or call (617) 630-1300; or e-mail chi@healthtech.com; or fax (617) 630-1325.

ENT UPDATE FOR PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

The course will be offered in St. Paul, Minn., on April 4.
Contact Ramsey Fdn., St. Paul–Ramsey Medical Ctr., CME, 640 Jackson St., St. Paul, MN 55101; or call (612) 221-3992.