



Book Reviews

Neurotrauma

Edited by R Narayan, J Wilberger and J Poivlishock
McGraw Hill, England, 1996.
1558 pp. Hardcover £195.
ISBN 0-07-045662-3.

This is a multi author text book with 1,558 pages dedicated to the subject of Neurotrauma. It is divided into three parts. Part 1 and part 2 discuss Basic Research. Each of parts 1 and 2 are sub-divided into a number of sections the first of which is a very informative overview that described historical perspective, epidemiology, classification, neuropathophysiology and general principles of management. This is followed by sections covering the early care including the pre-hospital stage, imaging techniques, management in the operating room, therapeutic intervention, complications and sequelae, rehabilitation and a section on special groups of patients sustaining head or spinal injuries. In addition there is a section on the management of associated injuries and clinical trials in head injuries. Spinal Injuries are discussed in 23 well written chapters with bibliography up to date until 1995. The majority of these chapters deal with the early care, complications and sequelae of spinal injuries. There are however also well written chapters on assessment, rehabilitation, spasticity, chronic pain, spinal cord injury in the paediatric and the elderly population as well as a chapter each on sports related and penetrating cord injuries. Part 3, which deals with basic research, including experimental models and injury mechanisms is most instructive. There are also three chapters on pharmacological and non pharmacological strategies of treatment which are both useful and informative.

Most of the chapters in this book commence with a synopsis and an introduction which the reader will find helpful for orientation. The book is attractively bound and well set out. The typesetting, format and illustrations are of a high quality and make reading easy and enjoyable. I would highly recommend 'Neurotrauma' for libraries and Clinicians who manage patients with head injuries and spinal injuries. This text book is also valuable for undergraduate students who are interested in the subject of Neurotrauma. At a cost of about £195.00 this text book is very good value.

WS El-Masry, FRCS

Principles of Neurology

Edited by R Adams, M Victor, A Ropper
Publishers: McGraw-Hill Publishing, UK. 1996: 1408pp.
ISBN 0 07 067439 6 £62.50

This is the sixth edition of a quite outstanding textbook of neurology. Since it first appeared in 1977, the book has gained a respected reputation and one which is well deserved. In this, the sixth edition, a new collaborator has been recruited (Dr Ropper) and every chapter has been fully revised.

The first part of the book deals with the clinical method of neurology and special techniques for diagnosis. This is followed by a large section on cardinal manifestations of neurological diseases: symptoms and signs of disordered nervous function, analysis in terms of anatomy and physiology, and extremely good accounts of the clinical implications. The third part of the book deals with growth and development of the nervous system and the neurology of ageing, the fourth part of the book deals with major categories of neurological diseases, the fifth part deals with diseases of spinal cord peripheral nerve and muscle, and the final part deals with psychiatric disorders.

Clearly a detailed description of spinal trauma and its management is beyond the scope of a textbook of neurology. However, the authors give a good and succinct account of this problem. The book's main interest of course, and its undoubted value, is as a reference book. The book is badly served by a poor index (try looking up for example 'aqueduct' or 'stenosis').

The book is highly recommended. It is well presented with good illustrations and represents good value.

LS Illis