Book Review

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Spinal Cord Medicine

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Published by Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins
ISBN 0-7817-2869-X pp 672. £98

This is a multi author text book with 39 chapters and over 655 pages covering various aspects of Spinal Cord Medicine and Rehabilitation. All chapters are well written with up to date references. The book includes chapters on non-traumatic spinal cord injury, tumours of the spine and spinal cord, infections of the spine and spinal cord, vascular, nutritional and other diseases of the spinal cord; multiple sclerosis, adult motor neurone disease, post polio syndrome and acute and chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathies.

This book is undoubtedly a good source of information for clinicians who wish to take their Spinal Cord Injury Medicine Certification Examination. Of particular interest are the chapters on neurological assessment and classification, predicting outcome in traumatic cord injury, endocri-

nology and metabolism and immune function following cord injury. The chapter dealing with spinal cord regeneration and therapies merits a special mention as it covers the subject extensively and comprehensively for the reader.

The chapter on the history of the specialty of Spinal Cord Injury Medicine is limited to the development of this specialty in the United States of America only.

I was rather disappointed that there was no reference to conservative treatment of the spinal injury as an option, when there is an abundance of such material in the literature.

All in all, *Spinal Cord Medicine* is a valuable addition to the collection of reference books on the subject. It is good value and reasonably priced.

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