

rologists and other specialists who frequently encounter the problem of epilepsy.

This is a multi-authored text which has been well laid out without significant overlap or repetition. The authors are clinicians practising in large tertiary care centres in the United States. The book is divided into three sections. In the first section there are four chapters dealing with treatment implications derived from the classification of seizures, the use and misuse of routine EEG, prolonged monitoring and neuroimaging. The chapter on routine EEG is particularly good. The one on neuroimaging, however, is somewhat unbalanced with a greater emphasis on PET than MRI which may well reflect the authors' area of expertise but does not reflect the general availability of these two procedures. In addition there appears to be a major oversight in that there is no mention of SPECT.

The second section deals with clinical aspects of epilepsy relating to children, adults and the elderly. Two chapters concern the adult with epilepsy, one dealing with anticonvulsant selection and the other with special treatment problems. For some reason these two chapters have been separated by the one dealing with epilepsy in the elderly. The chapter dealing with anticonvulsant selection is very good, particularly the areas concerning drug levels, generics and the special problems associated with pregnancy and breast feeding. Some mention of new drugs, however, would have been a helpful addition and I was somewhat surprised that the author did not more widely advocate the use of once-daily phenytoin. The chapter on special treatment problems is very useful in dealing with the problems of when to start and stop anticonvulsants and the use of anticonvulsants prophylactically after head injury and neurosurgical procedures. This section ends with a chapter on epilepsy surgery which unfortunately is rather disappointing as it is somewhat biased and not particularly up to date (the most recent reference was 1986).

The final section has three very useful chapters dealing with subjects which are often overlooked. The first deals with the psychological problems associated with epilepsy, the second with psychiatric problems of epilepsy and the third with epilepsy and aggression. The last pays particular attention to the use of epilepsy as a legal defence. The book concludes with a good concise overview of the basic mechanisms of epilepsy.

I think that this book has much to recommend it and that it would be a valuable addition to departmental neuroscience libraries as well as to personal libraries of those with a special interest in epilepsy.

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TREMOR. 1990. By Roger J. Elble and W.C. Koller. Published by Johns Hopkins University Press. 204 pages. \$60 Cdn. approx.

The primary purpose of this monograph as indicated by the authors in the preface is "to provide a comprehensive, integrated review of the most common forms of tremor that are encountered in clinical and laboratory settings". They have accomplished their goal quite successfully. The book is made up of 9 chapters. In the first, the authors consider the definition and

classification of tremor. They emphasize the difficulties with currently used clinical and the laboratory classification schemes. The concept that tremor is a dynamic expression of altered motor control is emphasized here and throughout the text. Because oscillations are a common mode of normal biologic function it is emphasized that some forms of tremor may represent an abnormal expression of previously purposeful neural oscillation rather than *de novo* instability. Chapter 2 reviews many methods of recording and analyzing tremor. This chapter provides information on selecting systems for quantitatively recording tremor as well as information on methods employed in tremor research. This chapter provides some very useful information for those scientists considering work in this field.

Pathological tremors can only be studied and interpreted with a full understanding of normal physiologic rhythmic oscillations. The physiology of normal tremor is discussed in detail in Chapter 3. The potential sources for the two major components of this tremor (mechanical-reflex tremor and the 8-12-Hz tremor) are outlined.

The remaining Chapters 4 through 9 discuss various forms of pathological tremor. Chapter 4 considers the pathophysiology of essential tremor and also includes a review of several animal models of postural tremor and neuronal oscillation. Chapter 5 reviews the pharmacological and surgical treatments of essential tremor. Chapter 6 provides a nice review of the clinical characteristics, pathophysiology and management of various forms of cerebellar tremor. Parkinsonian tremor is reviewed in the following chapter. A brief discussion of tremor induced by drugs such as antipsychotics, beta-adrenergic agonists, lithium, valproic acid, tricyclic antidepressants, ethanol, caffeine and theophylline and other agents is provided in Chapter 8. The final chapter briefly considers a number of "usual" forms of tremor, including midbrain tremor, tremor associated peripheral neuropathy, task-specific tremors (with an emphasis on primary writing tremor), post-traumatic tremor and psychogenic tremor.

The authors emphasize that the book was not designed as an encyclopedia of tremor. Indeed certain topics such as the tremors of Wilson's disease and other rhythmical movements including segmental myoclonus are not considered. However, these two extremely prolific experts in the field of tremor have accomplished their goal of "not simply summarizing existing facts but rather stimulating new ideas in the reader." There is something here for all students of neuromuscular control whether they are working at the clinical or basic science level.

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POST-POLIO SYNDROME. 1991. T.L. Munsat. Published by Butterworth-Heinemann. 126 pages. \$50 Cdn. approx.

This multi-authored book purports to review the current state of knowledge of and treatment for the Post-Polio Syndrome (PPS). It must be asked, however, if this task really requires a whole book, even such a slim one, given the limited information presented here.

In ten chapters, the authors cover the history of polio and its epidemics, the biology of polio virus, the criteria for the diagnosis of PPS, the electrophysiological and muscle biopsy findings