Books Received

CHORDOMAS AND CHONDROSARCOMAS OF THE SKULL BASE AND SPINE. 2003. Edited by Griff Harsh. Published by Thieme. 384 pages. C$246 approx.

EMERGENT MANAGEMENT OF TRAUMA. 2001. By Thomas A. Scaletta, Jeffrey J. Schaider. Published by McGraw-Hill. 619 pages. C$61 approx.

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING IN STROKE. 2003. Edited by Stephen Davis, Marc Fisher, Steven Warach. Published by Cambridge University Press. 266 pages. C$170 approx.

MAGNETIC SOURCE IMAGING OF THE HUMAN BRAIN. 2003. Edited by Zhong-Lin Lu, Lloyd Kaufman. Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 406 pages. C$62 approx.

MIND, BRAIN AND LANGUAGE. MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES. 2003. Edited by Marie T. Banich, Molly Mack. Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 394 pages. C$55 approx.

NEUROLOGIC EMERGENCIES. A SYMPTOM-ORIENTED APPROACH, 2ND EDITION. 2003. By Greg L. Henry, Andy Jagoda, Neal E. Little, Thomas R. Pellegrino, Published by McGraw Hill. 346 pages. C$82 approx.

NEURONAL SUBSTRATES OF SLEEP AND EPILEPSY. 2003. By Mircea Steriade. Published by Cambridge University Press. 522 pages. C$170 approx.

NEUROSURGERY ORAL BOARD REVIEW. 2003. By Jonathan S. Citow, Lydia M. Johns. Published by Thieme. 208 pages. C$55 approx.

PERCEPTUAL ORGANIZATION IN VISION. BEHAVIORAL AND NEURAL PERSPECTIVES. 2003. Edited by Ruth Kimchi, Marlene Behrmann, Carl R. Olson. Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 475 pages. C$80 approx.

PLASTICITY IN THE HUMAN NERVOUS SYSTEM. INVESTIGATIONS WITH TRANSCRANIAL MAGNETIC STIMULATION. 2003. Edited by Simon Boniface, Ulf Ziemann. Published by Cambridge University Press. 316 pages. C$135 approx.

SLEEP AND DREAMING. SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES AND RECONSIDERATIONS. 2003. Edited by Edward F. Pace-Schott, Mark Solms, Mark Blagrove, Stevan Harnad. Published by Cambridge University Press. 360 pages. C$46 approx.

SURGICAL TECHNIQUES FOR THE SPINE. 2003. By Thomas R. Haher, Andrew A. Merola. Published by Thieme. 304 pages. C$235 approx.

Book Reviews

TEXTURE OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM OF MAN AND THE VERTEBRATES, VOLUME III. 2002. Edited by Pedro Pasik and Tauba Pasik. Published by Springer Wien New York. 663 pages. C$266 approx.

I find reading Cajal as rewarding as reading Darwin. One finds the same eager search for discovery, as these true pioneers navigate a new world using their tremendous skill for observing nature and interpreting what they see. If in Darwin we find the first, labored but clear, glimpses of evolution as the fundamental principle of biology, in Cajal we watch the emergence of the neuronal doctrine as the basis of modern neuroscience. The idea against which Cajal fought, one in which all neurons were interconnected through cytoplasmic bridges and thus constituted a single cell miasma, is as incompatible with the development of basic and clinical neuroscience as creationism is inconsistent with genomic data, and astronomy with the similarly intuitive belief that the sun revolves around the earth. However, for the busy professional reader, there were three obstacles to enjoying Cajal's work: the first is that one would like to be certain that the information acquired has not been corrected along the development of neuroscience during the 20th century. The second is that the quality of the illustrations in most currently available editions is, to put it kindly, abysmal. The third is that Cajal's work was originally published in Spanish and French, and many current workers in basic and clinical neuroscience are not familiar with these languages. The edition of Pasik and Pasik addresses all three problems. It is much more than a modern translation. It provides comments to view Cajal writings in the light of current knowledge. This implies often supplying the contemporary nomenclature of the structures described by Cajal, sometimes adding information obtained through electron microscopic and labeling techniques to which Cajal had no access, and occasionally correcting errors. The illustrations, obtained by digging out the original drawings, are superb, and replace the need for the leaps of faith one had to have with the previous editions. Finally, the translation renders in good English the original Spanish and French texts that are combined as the source. The book will make for an enjoyable and profitable quiet reading, and is a wonderful gift to any neuroscientist.

David G. Munoz
Madrid, Spain

CORTEX AND MIND. 2003. By J.M. Fuster. Published by Oxford University Press. 294 pages. C$87.50 approx.

What I liked about this book is that it made me look at the brain and its functions in a light that we don't often direct toward neuroscientific issues. In particular, Dr. Fuster presents new insights into how the brain is organized functionally.

At first glance, the focus of the book appeared to be on the brain-mind dichotomy, the age-old dilemma with which most neuroscientists grapple, particularly as the neuroscientist moves along in his/her academic life. In fact, the preface of the book at first strongly intimated that this was the focus. Fuster states, "My ultimate objective is to substantiate the correlations between a neural