

suboptimal. One of the most common presenting complaints, a child with developmental delay, provides a good example. Related chapters would include those on growth and development, cerebral palsy, developmental disabilities, progressive degenerative disease, genetics, and pervasive developmental disorders. Unfortunately, these are found in chapters 1, 11, 13, 14, 23, and 34 respectively. As the trainee is likely to read around certain problems, a more continuous representation of these topics would be helpful.

Information on anti-epileptic drugs (AED) is also disorganized. References are scattered through three chapters on seizures, another on complications of AED, and an appendix of "commonly used drugs used in neurology". The book would benefit from an amalgamation of all AED information into a single chart listing all AED names, indications by seizure type, side-effects (acute, chronic, common, life threatening), starting doses and progression schedules, final dose ranges, drug interactions, half-lives, and cost. This would consume less space in the text and be a more accessible reference.

A chapter entitled "genetics" gives a review of basic genetics that is likely oversimplified for the pediatrics resident. It then mentions little of genetic syndromes and moves on to brief discussions of mitochondrial and lysosomal inborn errors of metabolism (IEM), topics which are incompletely covered elsewhere. A chapter reviewing common neurological genetic syndromes followed by a second with an approach to IEM would be more useful.

Despite these shortcomings, the majority of the book presents clear and concise information regarding key topics in pediatric neurology. There are particularly good chapters on the neurological history and examination, floppy infant, hemiplegia and stroke, ataxia, headache, and complications of leukemia. There are no glaring omissions. The degree of detail provided is appropriate for the pediatric resident. There are an unfortunate number of typographical errors, including several that are directly misleading. While most diagrams used are of adequate detail, several areas would have benefited from additional illustrations, particularly the neuroanatomy section.

Weiner and Levitt's *Pediatric Neurology* is a valuable, portable reference for the pediatric resident rotating through a neurology service. It is admirably constructed to provide an approach and differential diagnosis to common presenting problems, while at the same time supplying essential information about most neurological diseases encountered in children. Its affordable cost may facilitate its use by others such as medical students or adult neurology residents. It will undoubtedly "save" many a pediatrics resident, and will likely become a recommended asset to those rotating through our program.

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CURRENT PRACTICE OF CLINICAL ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY. 2002. Edited by John S. Ebersole and Timothy A. Pedley. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 800 pages. C\$220 approx.

This remarkably comprehensive textbook successfully evolves from previous tandems of editorship (D.W. Klass and D. Daly; D. Daly and T.A. Pedley) who created a clinically based book with academic overtones. Therefore, the book benefits from the concerted editorial efforts of two clinically orientated EEGers in Drs. Ebersole and Pedley.

The book consists of authoritative and comprehensive reviews of

virtually all topics relative to clinical EEG. Although these often extend beyond the needs of most clinical EEGers, they provide clear expositions of the fundamentals in each area, allowing the reader to extend his/her knowledge as far as desired. These chapters provide the academician with current in-depth information and allows him/her to embark on additional areas of EEG with confidence. These range from introductory-like chapters on the normal EEG by the late Dr. Peter Kellaway and the abnormal EEG by Drs. B. Zifkin and R.Q. Cracco to advance reviews on EEG voltage topography and dipole-source modelling by Dr. John Ebersole and automatic detection and analysis of seizures and spikes by J. Gotman.

Most of the illustrations are of high quality. Vertical lines and greyish background dominate and blur the essentials of a minority of tracings. Future editions may wish to replace vague terms such as "benign variants" and "patterns of uncertain significance" with a more straightforward title of "normal variants" in Dr. Westmoreland's valuable chapter.

In summary, the breadth and depth of this high quality volume will satisfy needs of clinical EEGers at all levels of interest and experience.

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ADVANCES IN NEUROLOGY VOL 92. ISCHEMIC STROKE. 2003. Edited by H.J.M. Barnett, Julien Bogousslavsky, Heather Meldrum. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 502 pages. C\$232 approx.

The newest edition in the *Advances in Neurology* series is a compilation of independent chapters on ischemic stroke in all its facets. Recognized stroke experts from around the world have contributed their interpretation of biology, therapy and recovery. The table of contents divides the volume into clinically relevant sections indicating that the book is designed for clinicians. This edition is designed for intermittent reading. A chapter on all the clinically important topics in stroke is present. While I read it cover to cover, the chapters that enlightened me will be different from those that reach other readers. The chapters that I found particularly helpful are described herein.

I found the chapters on genetic epidemiology most relevant and germane to current developments in stroke research. The discussion of the general epidemiology of stroke highlights what little we actually know about the distribution of stroke and its causes on a global basis. Much remains to be done to clarify matters.

The discussion of stroke mechanism, in particular, stroke associated with aortic atherosclerosis was particularly well-written because it definitively described the place of aortic arch atherosclerotic disease and its risk factors. This condition is now well-placed for assessment by a clinical trial of alternate therapies to prevent recurrent events. Such a trial is ongoing or in the final planning stages.

Therapeutics in nonvalvular atrial fibrillation were eloquently described. Reviews of surgical and endovascular techniques for stroke prevention were thorough and again, help to place patients in the context of their disease – in part by restraining enthusiasm for nonbeneficial intervention.

The most interesting section of the book was the last one on the management of stroke sequelae. Robot-assisted upper limb

rehabilitation, partial weight supported treadmill gait training and amphetamine-enhanced physiotherapy are exciting frontier areas of stroke research. It is quite possible, even probable, that because the time-window for acute stroke treatment is so short, the possibility of acute brain tissue salvage will be realized only in the few. The implication is that rehabilitative methods will be the salvation of the many. The capacity for the brain to recover and one day be regenerated with autologous stem cells are two of the most spectacular new frontiers of stroke research.

I found weaknesses in the presentation. The table of contents neatly identifies sections of relevance but the chapters, while sequential as listed, are not grouped into sections hereafter. An extra page introducing each section compartmentalizing a book clearly meant for selected reading would have been useful. The occasional

fact was clearly overstated, particularly among chapters dealing with imaging. Unfortunately, some of the imaging did not reproduce as well as could be hoped in this digital age. Future works will benefit as authors' collections of digital material expands.

Overall, I learned new things in most chapters. I have already referred to several of the chapters as references and I will use the book again. This volume can be recommended for neurologists and other physicians who treat stroke patients in the acute phase, see stroke victims in the clinic for secondary prevention and to psychiatrists and others who orchestrate rehabilitation for stroke victims.

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