

Book Reviews

NEGLECT AND THE PERIPHERAL DYSLEXIAS. 1991. Edited by M.J. Riddoch. Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 334 pages. \$77 Cdn. approx.

The practice and ethics of publishing are changing. This book, in fact, represents a reprint of two volumes of a journal, *Cognitive Neuropsychology*, published in 1990 and 1991. In other words, anybody could look these articles up in the library because they are already published material. In the past, once material was published it was reproduced only under special circumstances, such as the historical nature of the document or an anthology selected retrospectively after some time has passed to assess the validity of research. This volume is recently published journal information under hard copy. True enough the information has been selected by an editor and is focused on the topic of neglect, dyslexia, and letter-by-letter reading or what used to be called "visual alexia or pure alexia" and now it is somewhat obscurely renamed "peripheral dyslexia".

Apart from the above, this edited journal volume has some interesting articles in it. Some of them are reviews, others are new experimental work or single case reports. One such case report (50 pages!) suggests a word centered graphemic representation. Most of the material is of relatively little interest to the general neurologists. Some of the experiments are innovative, most of them adapted from cognitive psychology to study single cases interesting to behavioral neurologists, especially to those who work in language related fields, such as alexias, or in the field of neglect. There are a handful of those in Canada who will scrutinize this volume with interest, but I suspect they have seen the articles already. Others might find it interesting because it provides an insight of what cognitive neuropsychology is about in the fairly circumscribed areas of neglect and acquired reading disability.

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PRINCIPLES OF GERIATRIC NEUROLOGY. 1992. Edited by Robert Katzman and John W. Rowe. Published by E.A. Davis Company, Philadelphia. 368 pages. \$83 Cdn. approx.

This book is number 38 in the *Contemporary Neurology Series*. It is an informative overview of the principles, evaluation and special issues of the elderly.

In Section I, the authors discuss "normal" aging and those variables which may or may not alter with age. Of particular note is the testing and examination which may be difficult because of dementia and impaired vision or hearing. Emphasis is placed on medication history and a number of special issues in examination are noted. One chapter is devoted to normal aging and another to neuropsychopharmacology. This latter chapter includes a section on drug interactions, compliance and side effects.

In Section II, the authors discuss testing and neurological examination, brain imaging in the elderly and the neuropsycho-

logical battery of tests useful in the elderly (particularly those used to differentiate Alzheimer's disease from other forms of dementia or from benign cognitive changes of normal aging).

Section III discusses the differential diagnosis of dementia as well as the pathology and etiology. A chapter is devoted to the important topics of falls and gait, causes of transient loss of consciousness and voiding dysfunction. Two important chapters are concerned with ethical issues and specific disorders in the elderly.

This book is informative, touches areas often neglected in books on dementia and is recommended as an addition for the library of those interested in dementia.

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HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE. 1991. Series: Major Problems in Neurology, Vol. 22. Edited by Peter Harper. Published by W.B. Saunders Co. Ltd. 438 pages. Price not available.

This book is authored by Professor Peter Harper and 5 colleagues from the Institute of Medical Genetics in Cardiff, Wales who are internationally known for their experience in Huntington's disease. It is composed of 12 chapters and 5 appendices covering all aspects of Huntington's disease, including epidemiology, historical background, clinical aspects and natural history. Particularly extensive are chapters on psychiatric problems, psychosocial aspects, therapy and management. The last 4 chapters are devoted to molecular biology, genetic counselling and the group's experience and recommendations for predictive testing.

The text is well-written and supplemented with frequent tables and illustrations. An up-to-date, complete set of references is provided for each chapter. Professor Harper provides valuable personal insights into the management of this disorder, as he is the author or co-author of many of the chapters.

This book is an exhaustive treatise on Huntington's disease, and is superior to other books available at the present time. It provides comprehensive information, as well as personal insights, about the management of this condition. It should be read by all health professionals dealing with Huntington's disease patients, and is a valuable addition to every neurologist's library.

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FITS AND FAINTS. 1990. By John B.P. Stephenson. Published by MacKeith Press, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd., Philadelphia and JB Lippincott Co. 220 pages. \$82 Cdn. approx.

Dr. Stephenson has gathered more than 140 case histories and many well documented polygraphic recordings to illustrate a treatise largely devoted to non-epileptic causes of loss of