



BOOKS

MEASUREMENT OF PAIN IN INFANTS AND CHILDREN*

Progress in Pain Research and Management Volume 10.
Edited by G Allen Finley and Patrick J McGrath. Pp. ix + 210.
US\$67. IASP Press. 1997.

Pain is a very subjective perception and thresholds vary widely from person to person. In the individual pain toleration is strongly influenced by culture, emotional factors and the circumstances of the moment. The rugby player who accepts with stoicism the fiercest buffetings on the field may be reduced to whimpering importunity by the application of the dentist's drill! When the subject is an infant or little child, objective assessment of pain can be very difficult and this no doubt accounts for the perception that pain is less distressing in childhood and analgesia hardly necessary. To counteract this misapprehension it is desirable to have yardsticks for the objective measurement of pain in infancy and childhood and this need is what Finley and McGrath have addressed.

The book is a product of the first biennial International Forum on Pediatric Pain, held in Nova Scotia in 1996. The nineteen authors are drawn from a number of different disciplines and there may be significance in the fact that there is no paediatrician among them and that six are professional nurses. The book commences with a philosophic consideration of the reliability, validity and sensitivity of various scales devised to score pain in objective fashion. This is followed by a long chapter on the cortical localisation of pain and the manner in which this can be demonstrated by esoteric techniques such as thermographic imaging and immediate early gene studies as well as the more familiar EEG, evoked responses, MRI, SPECT and PET. Of more practical value are chapters devoted to an examination of physiological manifestations of pain such as tachycardia and palmar sweating, and behaviour changes which indicate to the observer that the child is in pain. Excellent photographs demonstrate changes which occur with age in the facial display of pain. Broad consideration is given to the assessment of pain in older children by means of a variety of self-reported scales. The final chapter, written by professional nurses, is a review of the practical difficulties encountered and the experience gained in the course of four clinical studies of pain measurement in children.

Doctors and nurses and indeed all health care personnel who work with children will find this book interesting though at rising R400 the majority will go for the library copy. Infants and preverbal children undoubtedly experience pain and may suffer unnecessarily when this is overlooked. With their greater contact time, nurses are more sensitive to this than many doctors. Both doctors and nurses who heed what is written in

this book will recognise more readily when their patients are in pain. I feel that the measurement and grading of levels of pain will continue to come less easily and indeed be of questionable value. An infant or child in significant pain requires analgesia sufficient to secure relief no matter what the severity of the pain.

P M Leary

APPLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES TO NEUROLOGY (ICD-NA)*

Second Edition. WHO. Pp. xi + 574. SwFr182/US\$163. WHO. 1997. ISBN 92-4-154502X.

The ICD-10 is the International Statistical Classification of diseases and related health problems. Now in its tenth version, this classification was produced by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

This classification aims to serve the needs of all medical disciplines, and is listed according to 21 diseases of different systems (e.g. diseases of the genito-urinary system). The result is a broad classification which may be useful for death certificates and patterns of epidemiological data but is not useful for more detailed classification of diseases in a specific discipline.

The ICD-NA (International Classification of Diseases – Neurological Application) is one of several adaptations of ICD-10 being produced by the WHO in response to the needs of specialist disciplines such as neurology. This edition has been developed with the broader aim of providing an

BEST SELLERS

The top three best selling books from the Health and Medical Publishing Book Department in the last month were:

Washington Manual of Medical Therapeutics. 29th Edition. Edited by Charles F Carey, Hans Lee and Keith F Woeltje. R142.50. Lippincott-Raven. 1998. ISBN 0-7817-1595-4.

Mental Health Policy Issues. Edited by D Foster, M Freeman and Y Pillay. R95. SA Medical Association. 1997. ISBN 1-875098-28-3.

Health Professionals Abroad. By Tim Ryder. R108. Vacation Work. 1997. ISBN 1-85458-172-4.

* Book titles marked may be ordered directly from SA Medical Association Health and Medical Publishing Book Department, Private Bag X1, Pinelands, 7430, tel. (021) 531-3081, fax (021) 531-4126, e-mail multimedia@samedical.co.za or jstrydom@samedical.co.za



individual code for almost every neurological condition, so that a uniform classification is available for epidemiological and clinical research, as well as for routine statistical reporting.

The ICD-NA had to be based upon the structure of ICD-10. This has ensured that all 5, 6 and 7 character codes of the ICD-NA can be contracted back into the original 3 or 4 character codes of ICD-10, thus ensuring compatibility with the official WHO code whatever the purpose or level of utilisation.

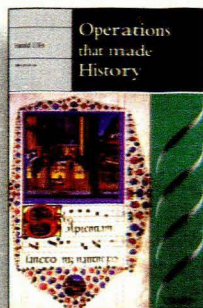
The book is a hard-covered manual of about 500 pages. It cannot be read or used as a reference but will be useful to all neurologists whether they are involved in research or merely classifying the patients they see on a daily basis. All health workers involved in the field of neurology, albeit peripherally, will find this book expensive but useful.

Vivian Fritz

OPERATIONS THAT MADE HISTORY*

By Harold Ellis. Pp. v + 134. Illustrated. R351. Greenwich Medical Media. 1996. ISBN 1-9001510-154.

Sir Harold Ellis is well known as a surgeon, teacher, author and medical historian. This slim volume of 134 pages is not serious medical history in the modern sociological sense but is popular history that can be appreciated by non-historians. It consists of a number of vignettes classified into three categories appropriately named by the author as Ellis type I, type II, and type III. Type I comprises major breakthroughs and surgical firsts. Type II is about innovations and new surgical techniques. In type III the operation is commonplace but the patient is a VIP. In the last category, with the exception of Lord Nelson's amputation, all the procedures were performed on members of the British Royal Family.



In each chapter a short biography is given of the surgeon and a description of the circumstances surrounding the operation. In the 'First Ovariectomy' not only is the life of the surgeon, Ephraim McDowell, described but also that of the brave patient Mrs Jane Crawford who was operated on at the age of 44 and lived comfortably to 78.

There are few references but they are readily available sources for anyone wishing to pursue the subject as they are largely from journal articles or biographies.

It is a soft-covered book which can easily fit into a pocket or handbag. The paper is glossy and the print clear with the text liberally illustrated with black and white photographs. Apart from an additional chapter, 'Splenectomy for Rupture of the

Spleen', and a few different illustrations, the book is identical to the author's *Famous Operations* (1984: Harwal Publishing Company) which is, however, larger and hard-covered.

The book is light reading suitable for bed-time or wherever a few moments are available for relaxation. It should be welcomed by students and teachers of surgery who could brighten their rounds and tutorials with information and anecdotes extracted from the histories.

The drawback to South African readers is the high price of R351.

A Dubb

BOOKS RECEIVED

The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits. The SAMJ does not publish unsolicited reviews.

Culture and Mental Health. A Southern African View.* By Leslie Swartz. Pp. vii + 326. R140. Oxford University Press. 1998. ISBN 0-19-570981.

Men's Health.* Edited by Tom O'Dowd and David Jewell. Pp. xii + 277. R375. Oxford University Press. 1998. ISBN 0-19-262581-0.

The State of the World's Children 1998.* By Carol Bellamy, United Nations Children's Fund. Pp. 131. Illustrated. R88.95. Oxford University Press. 1998. ISBN 0-19-829401-8.

World Drug Report.* United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Pp. 332. Illustrated. R210. Oxford University Press. 1997. ISBN 0-19-829299-6.

Questions about Life and Morality. Christian Ethics in South Africa Today.* Edited by Louise Kretzschmar and Len Hulley. Pp. 270. R79.95. J.L. van Schaik. 1998. ISBN 0-627-02358-4.

Implications of AIDS for Demography and Policy in South Africa.* By Alan Whiteside. Pp. xii + 146. R50. University of Natal Press. ISBN 0-86980-940-7.

Benefit-Risk Balance for Marketed Drugs: Evaluating Safety Signals.* Report of CIOMS Working Group IV. Pp. 160. SwFr15/US\$13.50. CIOMS. ISBN 92-9036-068-2.

Topics in Paediatrics. Edited by Julian Bassin and Neil Ginsberg. Pp. 232. Illustrated. R100. Julmar Communications. ISBN 0-620-21632-8.

Evaluation of Certain Veterinary Drug Residues in Food.* Forty-eighth Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. WHO Technical Report Series No. 879. Pp. vi + 85. SwFr19/US\$17.10. WHO. ISBN 92-4-120879-1.

Triglycidyl Isocyanurate.* Concise International Chemical Assessment Document No. 8. Pp. iv + 21. SwFr9.10. WHO. ISBN 92-4-153008-1.

N-Phenyl-1-naphthylamine.* Concise International Chemical Assessment Document No. 9. Pp. iv + 25. SwFr9.10. WHO. ISBN 92-4-153009X.