

Books

Neurophysiological Basis of Cerebral Blood Flow Control: An Introduction

Edited by S Mraovitch and R Sercombe. Pp. vi + 408. Illustrated. £40. London: John Libbey & Co Ltd. 1996. ISBN 0-86196-272-9.

This is a complex book which is very specialised. It is an advanced text-book for 'students' of cerebral circulation and is predominantly a reference for undergraduate and graduate students of biological sciences and neurophysiology, and will be very helpful for a specialist clinician or researcher in the field of vascular disease.

The book describes the current understanding of cerebral blood flow control. Subjects covered include the autonomic nervous system, cellular neurophysiology and neurotransmitter systems. There is a good section on ionic channels and ionic pumps, as well as receptors and metabolism of the central nervous system. The brain vasculature, both anatomy and details of smooth muscle and endothelium, are well discussed.

The physiology and anatomy of the cerebral vasculature and the mechanisms of control of cerebral blood flow are extensively covered. Two outstanding sections review in detail the extrinsic and intrinsic neural control of neurogenic regulation of cerebral blood flow. The neurotransmitters are also dealt with in a competent manner.

The clinical correlations are limited to 2 chapters at the end of the book – one on stroke and one on migraine. With all the new information emerging on neuroprotective agents in stroke it is a deficiency of the book that the clinical correlates are given very little space.

This book is soft covered and costs £40. It is a useful reference book for clinicians involved in stroke. Students are unlikely to read the book fully but would find some outstanding reference chapters. The neurophysiologists and postgraduate researchers in the field of vascular disease will find this book compelling and for this rather limited audience it is highly recommended.

V U Fritz

ABC of Rheumatology*

Edited by Michael L Snaith. Pp. 90. Illustrated. £16. London: BMJ Publishing Group. 1996. ISBN 0-7279-0997-5.

The *ABC of Rheumatology* is based on a series of articles published in the British Medical Journal. Additional chapters on epidemiology and laboratory investigations have been included in the book.

Chapters include sections on regional disorders such as the hand and wrist, neck, shoulder and arm, lower back pain, pain in the hip and knee and pain in the foot. These

* Book titles marked may be ordered directly from MASA Multimedia, Book Department, Private Bag X1, Pinelands, 7430, tel. (021) 531-3081, fax (021) 531-4126, e-mail masact@aztec.co.za.

chapters include the majority of the rheumatic conditions seen in clinical practice. They discuss the important disorders which must be considered in the differential diagnosis and focus on the cardinal manifestations of the various rheumatic disorders.

The salient features of the common arthritides such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout and spondyloarthropathies are clearly presented with guidelines for their management. Although the connective tissue disorders such as systemic lupus erythematosus and scleroderma are less common in clinical practice, they are an important cause of morbidity and mortality and it is appropriate that they are comprehensively discussed.

A constant theme throughout the book is the inclusion of a large number of clear photographs depicting the various conditions. The book also includes many tables which highlight key aspects of the various subjects. Apart from the graphic presentation of information, the book also includes radiographs, MRI scans and histology. The presentation of the topics is clear and easy to follow.

The role of a multidisciplinary team in the management of patients with rheumatic disorders is referred to throughout the book and emphasized in a chapter on the team approach in a rheumatology department.

This book is of value to medical students, general practitioners, medical registrars, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and nurse practitioners in rheumatology. Considering the large number of glossy coloured pictures the price is very reasonable.

G M Mody

Management of the HIV-Infected Patient

Edited by Suzanne Crowe, Jennifer Hoy, John Mills. Pp. xvii + 437. Illustrated. £55/US\$85. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1996. ISBN 0-521-45269-4.

HIV/AIDS is or will become an increasingly common medical condition, and as such clinicians will need a sound knowledge of its numerous clinical presentations, laboratory markers and patient management approaches. The above book is a welcomed addition to the resource list for clinicians dealing with HIV/AIDS. The value of this publication lies in its comprehensive cover of the management issues and for being reasonably updated within the context of the very rapid medically scientific progress in this field. The list of contributors is certainly expert and covers the issues in great depth. It is a book aimed specifically at clinicians with an interest in the subject or for pre- and post-graduate students. A more concise book with less detail may suit the busy practitioner who often needs a quick and ready reference resource. For these practitioners the above is probably too cumbersome and too detailed. The book would also suit clinicians who are as yet uninitiated in the care of people with HIV/AIDS provided such clinicians are prepared to set aside some real time to study the contents of the book.

The book is clearly orientated towards care in the developed world and South African clinicians may possibly find that the publication does not cover enough of the clinical presentation and management of conditions more

common in Africa and for situations where socio-economic circumstances do not allow for the state-of-the-art care. The book approaches the subject via a systematic review according to systems and opportunistic infections.

I also am pleased to see specific chapters on the laboratory markers of HIV infection which is a poorly understood area and a section on the HIV Infected Women which also discusses pregnancy, the chapter on occupationally acquired HIV and on advice to the traveller. The chapters on anti-retroviral therapy will probably be the first to be updated with recent developments and discoveries. The book does not cover the management of Paediatric HIV/AIDS.

I would recommend the book for specialist HIV clinicians and not particularly for those working in lower resourced communities and services.

Clive Evian

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.

Genetic Variation and Dietary Response. Volume 80: World Review of Nutrition and Dietetics. Edited by AP Simopoulos and PJ Nestel. Pp. xvi + 172. Illustrated. SwFr198/DM237/US\$172.25. 1997. Basel: S Karger. ISBN 3-8055-6347-7.

CDC Prevention Guidelines. A Guide to Action.* Edited by Andrew Friede, Patrick W O'Carroll, Ray M Nicola, Mark W Oberle and Steven M Teutsch. Pp. xxvi + 1556. £45. 1997. London: Waverly Europe Ltd. ISBN 0-683-03360-3.

Avery's Drug Treatment. A Guide to the Properties, Choice, Therapeutic Use and Economic Value of Drugs in Disease Management. Fourth edition. Edited by Trevor M Speight and Nicholas HG Holford. Pp. ix + 1852. 1997. Auckland: Adis International Limited. ISBN 0-86471-036-4.

Medicine and the Internet. Introducing Online Resources and Terminology.* By Bruce C McKenzie. Pp. vii + 209. Illustrated. R217.95. 1996. Cape Town: Oxford University Press Southern Africa. ISBN 0-10-262705-8.

An English Xhosa Companion for Health-Care Professionals.* By Beverley Kirsch, Silvia Skorge and Nosisa Matsiliza. Pp. xix + 537. R89. 1996. Cape Town: Juta Academic Publishing. ISBN 0-7021 3452X.

Neurological Emergencies.* Second edition. Edited by RAC Hughes. Pp. viii + 358. £25. 1997. London: BMJ. ISBN 0-7279-1104-X.

ABC of Urology.* By Chris Dawson and Hugh Whitfield. Pp. vii + 46. Illustrated. £16. 1997. London: BMJ. ISBN 0-7279-1075-2.

Creating Supportive Environments for Health. Stories from the Third International Conference on Health Promotion, Sundsvall, Sweden.* Edited by BJA Haglund, B Pettersson, D Finer and P Tillgren. Pp. xii + 201. SwFr50/US\$45. 1996. Geneva: WHO. ISBN 92-4-156180-70.

Laboratory Diagnosis of Group A Streptococcal Infections.* By J Sramek, R Bicova, et al. Pp. vii + 111. Illustrated. SwFr32/US\$8.80. 1996. Geneva: WHO. ISBN 92-4-154495-3.

Preventive Nutrition. The Comprehensive Guide for Health Professionals. Edited by Adrienne Bendich and Richard J Deckelbaum. Pp. xix + 579. US\$125. 1997. New Jersey: The Humana Press. ISBN 0-89603-351-1.