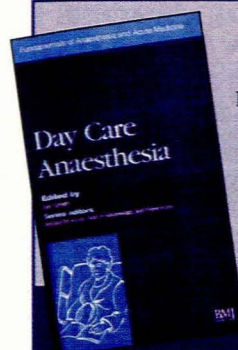




BOOK MANAGER'S CHOICE



Day Care Anaesthesia. Edited by Ian Smith, published by BMJ Books, October 2000, R420

This book discusses the provision of anaesthesia for day case patients from the pre-operative period until discharge and patient follow-up. It provides information on patient selection, management of pain and sick ness, the recovery process and problems which may occur after surgery. All forms of anaesthesia are covered, including local anaesthesia and nerve blocks, general anaesthesia (with inhaled and injected drugs) and the use of sedatives to supplement local anaesthesia. The special needs of the child are also addressed.

Book titles marked* may be ordered directly from SAMA Health and Medical Publishing
Book Department, Private Bag XI, Pinelands, 7430, tel. (021) 531-3081, fax (021) 531-4126,
e-mail publishing@samedical.org or jstrydom@samedical.org.

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.

Handbook of Hypertension. Vol. 20. Epidemiology of Hypertension.* Edited by CJ Bulpitt. Pp. xvii + 706. NLG 525/US\$ 275. Elsevier Science. 2000.
ISBN VOL.20 0-444-82779-X.

Handbook of Hypertension. Vol. 21. Hypertension in Pregnancy*. Edited by PC Rubin. Pp. xii + 374. NLG 450/US\$ 235. Elsevier Science. 2000.
ISBN VOL. 21 0-444-50416-8.

Neuroblastoma.* Edited by GM Brodeur, T Sawada, Y Tsuchida and PA Voute. Pp. xviii + 582. Illustrated. NLG 375/US\$ 196.50. Elsevier Science 2000. ISBN 0-444-50222-X.

Congenital and Perinatal Infections. Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment.* Edited by Marie-Louise Newell and James McIntyre. Pp. viii + 342. £37.95/US\$ 59.95. Cambridge University Press. 2000. ISBN 0-521-78979-6.

Nuclear Data for Neutron and Proton Radiotherapy and for Radiation Protection. ICRU Report 63. Pp. x + 259. US\$95. ICRU. 2000. ISBN 0-913394-62-9.

Ischemic Blood Flow in the Brain. Keio University Symposia for Life Science and Medicine. Vol. 6. Pp. Edited by Y Fukuuchi, M Tomita and A Koto. Pp. xviii + 466. Illustrated. Springer. 2000. ISBN 4-431-70292-X.

Primary AIDS Care.* Third Edition. By Dr Clive Evian. Pp. 333. Illustrated. R140. Jacana Education. 2000. ISBN 1-874955-53-0.

Anaesthesia at the District Hospital.* Second Edition. By Michael B Dobson. Pp. vii + 153. Illustrated. Sw.fr.35./US\$31.50. WHO. 2000. ISBN92-4-154527-5.

Psychosis and Schizophrenia. Second Edition. By AE Gangat. Pp. viii + 265. Valentine Bedford. 2000. ISBN 0-620-24376-7.

ABNORMAL CORTICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EPILEPSY — FROM BASIC TO CLINICAL SCIENCE

Edited by R Spreafico, G Avanzini & F Andermann. Pp. xii + 324. Illustrated. £39. John Libbey & Co Ltd. 1999. ISBN 0-86196-579-5.

Neuro-imaging techniques have helped to identify well-defined early developmental defects responsible for partial 'cryptogenic' epilepsies in childhood. This concept has involved neurologists and geneticists as well as clinicians. A multidisciplinary meeting in 1997 addressed these epileptogenic cortical developmental abnormalities. This book reports the papers presented at this meeting.

The book is divided into 6 sections. The first defines the problems of cortical dysplasias and their role in causing epileptogenic discharges. This chapter defines the range of abnormalities which range pathologically from vertical and horizontal dyslamination, via abnormal neurons due to cortical malpositioning to differentiation abnormalities of cell type resulting in balloon cells. The most severe epileptic abnormalities have been linked to the latter.

Other abnormalities described include heterotopias (migration of cells to cause re-arrangement of cortical structure). The pattern of genetic abnormality, passed predominantly via women, is well described and the range of abnormality is linked to the severity of the epilepsy. Some of these lesions can be surgically removed.

Pachygyria, polygyria and microgyria are disorders of cortical organisation occurring later in pregnancy. Severe uncontrolled epileptic seizures can accompany these disorders. Callosal section is a surgical method of treatment but it is only partially successful.

The range of magnetic resonance imaging, especially spectroscopy is well described in clarifying and identifying all



these dysplastic abnormalities and gyral lesions. Newer research has attempted to clarify the patterns of conduction and seizure disorders related to these functional abnormalities. The sections on cortical development explore cortical connections, and mechanisms of corticogenesis. A fascinating paper described acquired neonatal encephalopathies subsequent to cortical vasculature abnormalities and post injury re-organisation resulting in childhood epilepsy due to acquired dysplasia.

There is a section on animal models of developmental brain dysgenesis, neuronal migration disorders and cortical heterotopia. The book becomes easier to read as more clinically familiar sections are presented e.g. electro-clinical imaging and neuropathological studies and the role of surgery in treating these disorders. A section on the genetic basis of malformations of neuronal migration attempts to correlate clinical abnormalities with molecular mechanisms.

Although detailed it is well illustrated and explores the genetic and pathological migration faults of brain development which results in seizures. This is a book for geneticists, embryologists, anatomists, neurophysiologists, neurologists and paediatricians. It is relatively inexpensive in sterling terms and fairly unique in its multidisciplinary approach. This is the science of the future and anyone with an interest in brain development or epilepsy will find it compelling reading.

Vivian Fritz

ENQUIRING MINDS

By Albie van de Venter. Briza Publications 1999. Pp 1913. R69.95
ISBN 1-875093-18-4

Few scientists become household names or indeed even widely known outside the confines of their own narrow fields, despite the profession including some of the most enterprising individuals in society.

Enquiring Minds is an attempt to redress this balance, with profiles of a selection of 20 South African scientists from across the scientific and social spectrums. Among them are individuals such as anthropologist Phillip Tobias, Foresight sector co-ordinator Nombasa Tsengwa, National Research Foundation President Khotso Mokhele and dinosaur researcher Anusuya Chinsamy Turan. Others who will be known to readers of the *SAMJ* are pharmacologist Kanti Bhoola, TB expert Valerie Mizrahi and oesophageal cancer researcher Wallie Marasas.

The profiles are based principally on individual tape-recorded interviews, and are on average about 10 pages with photographs. Each includes an introduction to their field of

work and a brief description of their life story, achievements and draws out issues of motivation and how they balance their professional and private lives.

The concept of such a book is excellent and was compiled by the author, a botanist at the University of Pretoria, principally during research leave granted for this purpose. However, nowhere is it stated specifically for whom the book is intended, although the style of the writing and the budget production — the photographic reproduction in particular — which keeps the sale price down, would suggest that it is aimed at the high school student. This also seems to be borne out by the author's hope in the preface that the book will contribute to a greater awareness of science in South Africa and to inspire young people into science as a career.

Adult readers are nevertheless likely to find much of interest in the book, but should rather purchase it with a teenage son or daughter in mind than themselves.

Jonathan Spencer Jones

QUANTITATIVE ULTRASOUND: ASSESSMENT OF OSTEOPOROSIS AND BONE STATUS

Edited by Christopher F Njeh, Didier Hans, Thomas Fuerst, Claus-C Glüer and Harry K Genant. Pp. viii + 420. Illustrated. £65.00.
Martin Dunditz Ltd. 1999. ISBN 1-85317-679-6.

This book is a comprehensive presentation of the use of QUS to assess skeletal status, with a special emphasis on osteoporosis.

Data provided include the physics of ultrasound; statistical methods; a review of currently available clinical QUS devices; literature on the potential advantages and limitations of ultrasound techniques *in vitro*, as well as a comprehensive overview of the clinical utility of ultrasound.

The information provided is clear, detailed and well substantiated by research data and references. It is a very useful reference guide and recommended for radiologists or ultrasonographers with a special interest in bone mass technology. Clinicians attached to metabolic research units involved in teaching and research in the field of osteoporosis, and those with a keen academic interest in the clinical management of osteopenic patients should also find it useful.

As a clinician attached to a metabolic research unit, I particularly enjoyed the clinical sections. I found the book very informative and excellent reading material for anyone actively involved in the field of osteoporosis and bone mass technology.

Magda Conradie