

## Book Reviews

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**Lecture Notes on Neurology**, 6th ed, by Ivan T. Draper, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 212 pp, \$12.50.

This pocket-sized paperback is subdivided into three major categories: structure and function of the nervous system, history taking and the neurologic examination, and nervous system diseases. Brief definitions are provided for commonly used neurologic terms. Simplified diagrams are provided to help visualize the organization of various levels of the central nervous system. The major neuroanatomic pathways of the motor, sensory, and cerebellar systems are described. Alterations within these pathways and common clinical signs are correlated. The section dealing with history taking and the neurologic examination outlines basic techniques and describes the physical signs correlating with anatomic lesions. The concise third section discusses each nervous system disorder with respect to pathology, clinical presentation, diagnostic evaluation, and treatment. Common disorders, such as epilepsy, headache, and cerebrovascular disease, are described in greater detail.

One major deficiency of this book is its sparse reference section. Only four sources are cited as authoritative texts.

*Lecture Notes on Neurology* is directed toward the undergraduate and junior house officer. The sections dealing with the neurologic examination serve as a good reference for the novice neurologist. As stated by the author in the preface, this book should be used in conjunction with, not as a substitute for, formal course work.

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**Neurosurgery—The Scientific Basis of Clinical Practice**, ed by Alan Crockard, Richard Hayward, and Julian T. Hoff, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 647 pp, \$99.95.

As is often the problem in books by multiple authors, the quality of various sections is quite uneven.

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Such is the case with *Neurosurgery—The Scientific Basis of Clinical Practice*. Several topics are covered in an excellent fashion, including neurochemistry, stereotactic surgery, experimental neuro-oncology, viral infections, and tests (radiography, audiography, evoked potentials, electromyography, and endocrine evaluation). The section about craniosynostosis is lengthy and very well written. Overall, the chapter about congenital problems affecting the nervous system is done well, but many of the diseases affecting the nervous system are given only short descriptions. The final chapter dealing with bladder function is also excellent. Other sections, however, leave much to be desired. The chapter discussing the effects of systemic disease on the nervous system is only a few pages long. Another chapter about epilepsy is good, but devotes only one page to pharmacologic treatment. The chapter dealing with clinical neuropsychology is only three pages long, lacks a description of tests, and does not include enough references to allow the reader to go into this subject in greater depth. Many sections have too few references, while other chapters have an overwhelming number. A textbook of this type would probably be most appealing to residents in training to give them some exposure to the various disease entities.

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**Surgical Treatment of Aortic Aneurysms**, by Denton A. Cooley, Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1986, 240 pp, \$55.00.

Since simplicity and understatement are two of the most dependable hallmarks of vast experience, it should come as no surprise that Dr. Denton Cooley of the Texas Heart Institute has successfully condensed more than 30 years of his original work with aortic aneurysms into a succinct and thoroughly manageable volume which should be of interest to virtually any cardiovascular surgeon. With the invaluable assistance of Bill Andrews, an award-winning medical artist, Cooley describes atherosclerotic and dissecting