Books Received

Advanced Techniques in Image-Guided Brain and Spine Surgery. 2002. By Isabelle M. Germano. Published by Thieme. 248 pages C$235.00 approx.

Behavioural Phenotypesin Clinical Practice. 2002. Edited by Gregory O'Brien. Published by Cambridge University Press. 39 pages C$102.00 approx.

Cerebrovascular Disease: 22nd Princeton Conference. 2002. Edited by Pak H. Chan. Published by Cambridge University Press. 461 pages C$208.00 approx.

Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology. A Multimodality Approach. 2003. By Klaus Sartor. Published by Thieme. 402 pages C$156.00 approx.

Essential Psychopharmacology Antipsychotics and Mood Stabilizers. 2002. By Stephen M. Stahl. Published by Cambridge University Press. 142 pages C$53.00 approx.

Handbook of Neurotoxicology Volume 1. 2001. Edited by Edward J. Massaro. Published by The Humana Press. 668 pages C$270.00 approx.

Neurological Sports Medicine. A Guide for Physicians & Athletic Trainers. 2001. Edited by Julian E. Bailes, Arthur L. Day. Published by American Association of Neurological Surgeons. 310 pages C$99.00 approx.

Neurosurgery of Arteriovenous Malformations and Fistulas. A Multimodal Approach. 2002. By Hans-Jakob Steiger, Robert Schmid-Elsaesser, A. Muacevic, H. Bruckmann, Berndt Wowra. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 473 pages C$350.00 approx.

Psychiatricand Cognitive Disorders in Parkinson's Disease. 2002. By Sergio E. Starkstein, Marcelo Merello. Published by Cambridge University Press. 229 pages C$116.00 approx.

Vitamin Responsive Conditions in Paediatric Neurology. 2002. Edited by Peter Baxter. Published by Cambridge University Press. 181 pages C$128.00 approx.

Book Reviews

Magnetic Resonance in the Diagnosis of CNS Disorders. 2001. Edited by Vaso Antunovic, Gradimir Dragutinovic, Zvonimir Levic, Miroslav Samardzik. Published by Thieme. 317 pages. C$207.86 approx.

This book is edited by two professors of neurosurgery, a professor of neurology and an assistant professor of radiology, all at the University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

It consists of two principal sections: the first is on magnetic resonance in the diagnosis of the brain and craniocervical junction. The second is on magnetic resonance in the diagnosis of the pathology of the soft tissues inside the spinal canal. Each section consists of multiple sub-sections. In the brain section, there are sections on general principles of MR, malformations, cerebrovascular diseases of the brain, trauma, intracranial infection, degenerative diseases of the brain, brain tumors, posterior fossa tumors, tumors of the craniocervical junction, extracranial tumors with intracranial propagation, tumors of the hypophysis, temporal lobe epilepsy, MR angiography of the endocranium and neck, MR controls following therapy and MR in children. The spine section consists of general principles, malformations, vascular diseases of the medulla spinalis, spinal trauma, inflammatory diseases, demyelination diseases, tumors, degenerative diseases of the spine, MR angiography of the spine, and postoperative changes and controls.

In addition to the editors, contributors include Ljiljana Djorjiic, Branislav Nestorovic, Ivan Piscevic, Miodrag Rakic, and Lukas Rasulic, all from the University of Belgrade.

The editors state that the intent of their book was a review of the MRI and clinical characteristics of different neurological and neurosurgical conditions from their clinical practice, and to illustrate the importance of MRI in diseases of the brain and spinal cord.

I found this book difficult to read, due most likely to the fact that the authors and editors are not English speakers, or writers. In the general section, several facts are noted that are not mentioned in general MRI e.g. the scanning of patients with metallic IUDs needing post-scanning gynecological evaluation to prevent unwanted contraception (presumably to movement of the IUD), patients with metal fillings sensing metallic tastes in the mouth during or after the MR examination, and scintillation seen by the patient due to the effect of the field on the vitreous.

This reviewer was struck by the absence of recent references in all of the sections – the most recent reference was 1998. Most of the references were in the 1983 – 1988 range. This is especially important given recent developments in fields such as multiple sclerosis, and stroke.

Many parts of current MRI are ignored or substantially underrepresented e.g. MR angiography, especially contrast-enhanced MR angiography, MR spectroscopy, diffusion and