

Books Received

CELL TRANSPLANTATION FOR NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS. 1998. Edited by Thomas B. Freeman, Hakan Widner. Published by Humana Press. 368 pages. \$C195.75 approx.

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM IN CHILDHOOD. 1998. By Jean Aicardi. Published by Cambridge University Press. 897 pages. \$C351.00 approx.

EFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE. THE FOUNDATIONS OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL EMOTIONS. 1998. By Jaak Panksepp. Published by Oxford University Press Canada. 466 pages. \$C105.00 approx.

IMMUNOLOGICAL AND EFFECTIOUS DISEASES OF THE PERIPHERAL NERVES. 1998. Edited by N. Latov, J.H.J. Wokke, J.J. Kelly, Jr. Published by Cambridge University Press. 435 pages. \$C188.50 approx.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER. METHODOLOGY, BIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY. 1998. Edited by William M. Pardridge. Published by Cambridge University Press. 486 pages. \$C175.50 approx.

NEUROLOGY AND THE LAW: PRIVATE LITIGATION AND PUBLIC POLICY. CONTEMPORARY NEUROLOGY SERIES. 1998. Edited by H. Richard Beresford. Published by Oxford University Press Canada. 188 pages. \$C133.50 approx.

PATHOLOGY AND GENETICS. TUMOURS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. 1997. Edited by Paul Kleihues, Webster K. Cavenee. Published by Oxford University Press Canada. 255 pages. \$C137.95 approx.

SPINAL CORD DISEASES. NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE AND THERAPY SERIES-VOLUME 47. 1998. Edited by Gordon L. Engler, Jonathan Cole, W. Louis Merton. Published by Marcel Dekker. 696 pages. \$C263.25 approx.

THE CNS IN ACTION: THE OLFACTORY SYSTEM CD ROM #3. 1998. By Jean-Marie Peyronnard, Louise Charron. Published by SSB Multimedia Health Services. \$C123.50 approx.

THE PREFRONTAL CORTEX. EXECUTIVE AND COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS. 1998. By A.C. Roberts, T.W. Robbins, L. Weiskrantz. Published by Oxford University Press Canada. 248 pages. \$C62.50 approx.

Book Reviews

THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM – STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS. 1998. 2nd Edition. By Per Brodal. Published by Oxford University Press. 675 pages. \$C71.50 approx.

In this the second edition of his volume on the central nervous system, Per Brodal has risen to the challenge of explaining an increasingly complex topic by a synthesis of style and format that immediately engages even the first time reader, and facilitates understanding. Examples are as follows: i.) the text is developed within the contextual frameworks of normal and abnormal neurological function; ii.) the text builds on its contextual frameworks of function and dysfunction by emphasizing neural networks and neural connectivity; iii.) the text whets the appetite of those interested in the nervous system by highlighting areas of controversy and lack of knowledge, and by delving more deeply into certain areas by a format that does not distract or disengage the reader; iv.) the text does not overwhelm because it is set up for selective perusal, and uses succinct declarative sub-headings to focus attention by means of summary; v.) the bibliography is organized to match chapter and section content. This feature is a useful aid to students, tutors and facilitators to promote more in-depth literature perusal; vi.) photomicrographs and drawings are of high quality and clearly complement the text to facilitate learning.

This text belongs in the curriculum of students beginning studies in the health sciences disciplines. The author has been faithful to the Brodal tradition of bridging the gap between basic and clinical neurosciences by relating structure at all levels of the nervous system (molecular, cellular, systems) to its functions.

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RIGHT HEMISPHERE LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION. 1998. Edited by Mark Beeman, Christine Chiarello. Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc. 408 pages. \$C51.94 approx.

This edited book on right hemisphere language concentrates on comprehension from phonology to pragmatics. It is a multi-disciplinary effort with most of the contributions being linguists and psychologists but also a few neurologists and neuroscientists researching anatomy. Right hemisphere language capacity has been much debated. This is not a trivial topic from the point of view of neurobiology and psycholinguistics or even clinical neurology, although clinical issues are not prominent in this book. For instance, there is a chapter on right hemisphere contributions to creative problem-solving but not on recovery from aphasia. There is no chapter on PET scanning or fMRI that have thrown some light on right hemisphere language function, but there is a chapter in the book on event related potentials and some computer modeling of the semantic space that challenges the comprehension of non technical readers. Particularly interesting are the chapters that make an attempt at integrating hemispheric processing of language. There is no doubt that language deficits are subtle with right hemisphere damage but the evidence for right hemisphere participation in language processing is indeed extensive and some of this is highlighted and updated in this book.

Language comprehension is a complex phenomenon requiring phonological processing, the recognition of lexical units and their integration into meaning, the use of syntax (which the right hemisphere by the way seems incapable of doing). The processing of paralinguistic or pragmatic aspects of language such as humor, context and other highly integrated functions, on the other hand, may