

Book Reviews

Carers, Professionals and Alzheimer's Disease, Proceedings of the 5th Alzheimer's Disease International Conference, edited by Desmond O'Neill. Pp. viii + 327. John Libbey, London, Paris, Rome, 1991. Paperback £21.

This is a book based on the Fifth Alzheimer's Disease International Conference held at Trinity College Dublin in September 1989.

Contributors to the Conference were not only doctors but other professionals and carers from all parts of the world. Much of the book therefore deals with experiences or description of new initiatives from various departments around the globe. The style and quality of the chapters is therefore variable, as one would expect.

The last three sections, dealing with the nature of Alzheimer's disease, diagnosis, assessment and therapy are well written and referenced. These proceedings give a clear overview of Alzheimer's disease and the way it has been tackled internationally and in my view deserve a place on the bookshelf of departments involved in the provision of services for patients with Alzheimer's disease and their carers.

G.S. Rai

*Department of Geriatric Medicine,
Whittington Hospital,
London N19 5NF.*

A Colour Atlas of the Brain and Spinal Cord, Marjorie A. England and Jennifer Wakely. Pp. 288, illustrated. Wolfe Publishing, London, 1991. Hardback £32.

This is a beautiful atlas which is a joy to use. Produced on high-quality glossy paper it is packed with pictures of the brain and spinal cord either in natural colours or in various neurohistochemical stains. They are well labelled.

Unfortunately the immense importance of the study of neuroanatomy as the basis for interpretation of neurological symptoms and signs is not always adequately explained. Further demands are made by recent advances in distribution of neurotransmitters by referring to such structures as the locus caeruleus, raphe nuclei and basal nucleus of Meynert. Most standard books are very vague about these structures, though the book being reviewed does provide information about the first two. There are a few short chapters summarizing the concepts of the major neuroanatomical systems such as the sensory and motor paths, visual pathways and limbic system.

At £32 this book seems to provide quite unparalleled value.

D.E. Sharland

*Department of Geriatric Medicine,
Whittington Hospital,
London N19 5NF.*

First on Call for Urology, Robert K. Carruthers. Pp. x + 85, illustrated. Macmillan Press, Scientific & Medical, London, Basingstoke, 1991. Paperback £6.95.

This book achieves the declared aim of providing a short but succinct guide to the practical management of common urological problems for new housemen, locums or nursing staff.

It is well laid out with appropriately simple line diagrams. The practical advice is clearly given in a very readable form. It is of a size that can truly be described as pocket book. With the recent declared intention of reducing junior doctors' hours it is anticipated that cross specialty cover will become the rule rather than the exception. The timing of this publication therefore is very appropriate and the advice given will be of great help to the reader who may well have had minimal exposure to urological teaching as an undergraduate. I would like to have seen a chapter on fluid balance and the investigation and management of renal failure as the immediate help of a nephrologist is not always to hand.

An excellent little book which can be recommended for all new housemen.

J.C. Gingell

*Southmead Hospital,
Westbury-on-Trym,
Bristol BS10 5NB.*

Out of Sight, Out of Mind – Mental Illness: Who Cares? Pp. 47. The MSD Foundation, London, 1991. £5.

This symposium addressed issues of concern to both those who work with the mentally ill, and to those members of the public who feel that the shift from hospital-based to community care has resulted in an increase in the number of the severely mentally ill on the streets of towns and cities. It brought together distinguished speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds to discuss changes that may be 'both feasible and desirable' in regard to their care. That the initial two speakers on the subject 'What is mental illness?' were a general practitioner and a sociologist may have reflected a healthy shift away from regarding mental illness as the exclusive province of the psychiatrist. This was followed by the presentation of market research recently carried out on opinions and attitudes of both the public and of a selection of members of Parliament of all parties to mental health issues. Interestingly, mental health was ranked only fifth out of seven in the priority of health care areas among the MPs, a situation that will have to be changed if the mental health lobby is to succeed in gaining a greater slice of the National Health Service cake. 'When community care fails' was addressed from the perspective of a police superintendent who outlined the burden that this places on his already overworked and ill-equipped force. Until the title 'Agenda for success', Parliamentary



Carers, Professionals and Alzheimer's Disease

G.S. Rai

Postgrad Med J 1992 68: 74

doi: 10.1136/pgmj.68.795.74

Updated information and services can be found at:

<http://pmj.bmj.com/content/68/795/74.1.citation>

These include:

Email alerting service

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:

<http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions>

To order reprints go to:

<http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform>

To subscribe to BMJ go to:

<http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/>