

attempted to address many of the issues around HIV and AIDS. Consequently the book is neither a reference nor a patients' guide, but it does to a large extent fill the gap between the two. This is an easy introduction to HIV disease, however, and is intended for those health care workers who are new to the subject or who might have a small HIV practice.

The questions and answers are conveniently slotted into several chapters which range from AIDS epidemiology through to zidovudine therapy. There is also a short chapter suggesting further reading and some practical information with a useful listing of services and addresses. Because new data about HIV disease are published at a prolific rate, some of the factual information around anti-retrovirals and opportunistic infection already needs revision, but most of the information and practical advice was well-informed, concise and very easy to read.

I particularly enjoyed the ethical issues chapter which revolves around several case histories based on both fact and fiction. These could easily form the basis of group discussion. There is an obvious need for a book like this in general practice surgeries, in health care clinics and advice centres and might be of interest to HIV-positive patients.

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New Trends in Nuclear Neurology and Psychiatry, D.C. Costa, G.F. Morgan and N.A. Lassen. Pp. 180, illustrated. John Libbey, London, Paris, Rome, 1993. Hard-back, £24.00.

The use of radiolabelled cerebral perfusion agents and receptor ligands, the distribution of which in the brain can be mapped using single-photon emission tomography (SPET) is at the cutting edge of the diagnosis of several neuropsychiatric disorders. Consequently papers on these topics are constituting an ever-increasing proportion of nuclear medicine and neuropsychiatric conferences.

This small and readily digestible book effectively consists of the proceedings of a post-congress meeting with the same name as the title, held on the island of Madeira following the 1992 Annual Congress of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine. The lectures presented (and therefore the topics covered in the book) commence with the historical background and proceed to a discussion of the physiological basis for brain imaging with radionuclides, the radiopharmaceuticals available and the use of SPET in dementia. The book terminates with a discussion of clinical applications.

The bulk of the topics deal with basic sciences such as the underlying physiology, pharmacy, physics and instrumentation. Of these, the most fascinating is an historical discussion of the mapping of regional cerebral blood flow by one of the co-authors and supreme expert on the subject, Niels Lassen of Denmark. The discussion on the relevant pharmaceuticals (the perfusion tracers iodine-123 amphetamine and technetium-99mHMPAO and the D₂ receptor-specific ligand, iodine-123 iodobenzamide (IBZM)) is also particularly well done.

Of main interest to the clinician are the three chapters dealing with clinical applications. The first of these, written from the point of view of the neurologist, reviews the use of SPET in stroke, dementia and epilepsy, which are amongst the most developed areas of clinical application. The following chapter is devoted more specifically to radionuclide imaging in psychiatry with special emphasis placed upon resting and activation studies following specific behaviour patterns or tasks set the patient. The clinical discussions end with a comprehensive review by a group of workers from Milan, who discuss the correlation of these studies with magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy. Such studies provide the anatomical substructure on which the PET or SPET studies can be superimposed.

The appendix might arguably be considered the most valuable section of the book, as it is virtually an atlas of normal and abnormal cerebral perfusion and neuroreceptor SPET studies. It includes examples of Alzheimer's and multi-infarct dementia, stroke, ictal and interictal epilepsy, the encephalitides and tumours. The section ends with several D₂ neuroreceptor maps as well as one or two multiple-tracer studies of both cerebral perfusion and neuroreceptor distribution, notably in Wilson's disease. The coloured illustrations and line drawings are of the highest quality.

The book as a whole is clearly and lucidly written, and in only 150 pages of text the editors and co-authors have succeeded in producing an extremely useful synopsis of the field, which will appeal both to specialists and trainees. It is essential reading for neurologists and psychiatrists.

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Handbook of Paediatric Neurology and Neurosurgery, S.J. Gaskill and A.E. Marlin. Pp. 252. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Madrid, Melbourne, 1993. Paperback, £27.00.

This pocket book aims to provide information on most aspects of paediatric neurology and neurosurgery. It has a definite North American flavour. The amount of information provided in the 242 pages is quite extraordinary but there are curious omissions. Disorders are divided into simple chapter headings such as infections and encephalopathies. Unfortunately there is little or no cross-referencing between chapters. For example, inborn errors are not listed as causes of metabolic encephalopathies and little attention is drawn to the encephalopathic features seen in many of the disorders covered in the metabolic chapter. The chapter on embryology and diagnostic testing are both useful. The choice of the dysmorphic syndromes is strange with omission of Angelmann's syndrome, for example. The chapter on infections includes arboviral and Western equine encephalitis but does not mention *Herpes simplex* or *Mycoplasma* encephalitis. *Herpes simplex* is only mentioned in relation to TORCH screening.