BOOK REVIEWS


These five hefty volumes and separate index represent an attempt at comprehensive integration of the major clinical neurosciences and neurobiology. Whatever specific criticisms may be directed at individual contributions within each volume are of minor importance when one considers the magnitude of the task for the editors and contributors. The publisher has produced an attractive set of volumes with obvious attention to significant items in the format such as the selection of print, the illustrations and composition.

An extensive volume by volume analysis of this work is impossible in a review of this type, but I will offer few general comments and special attention will be directed to volume three devoted to neuropathology.

Volumes one and two, Neurology and Neurology/Neurosurgery are the clinical keystones for the other books in this set. Editors Rosenberg and Grossman and their 75 contributors cover the spectrum of clinical disorders, newer diagnostic methods, natural history and management. As in all productions with multiple authors there is some variation in the quality of the presentations. However, overall the quality is high and both clinicians and neuropathologists will benefit from most of the chapters.

Volume 4 (Neuroradiology) is a substantial contribution and a valuable reference and teaching source for neuropathologists interested in clinical, radiological and pathological correlations. The Editor of the volume, Heinz, has contributed an unusually large number of chapters himself.

Under the editorship of Willis volume 5 (Neurobiology) is also an important source of information on the current state of basic neuroscience.

The volume on neuropathology (number 3) was edited by Schochet; he and 16 contributors have fashioned a useful, up-to-date statement on the major disorders of the nervous system and their structural manifestations. The Editor of this volume in his Introduction referred to the eclectic nature of neuropathology and the need to incorporate modern concepts derived from basic neurosciences. He was also aware of the need for clinical correlative strength in the various chapters. The title of the set is, after all, The Clinical Neurosciences. Schochet and his associates have, by and large, succeeded in their attempt to reconcile the goals. There remains a conspicuous tilt toward a clinically relevant orientation in most of the chapters. Most of the illustrations are of excellent quality; the material in tables is generally well-organized, instructive and will serve as useful aids for the teacher of neuropathology. The references are extensive, well-selected and some as late as 1981 accompany most chapters. There will certainly be disappointment on minor points, but the overall achievement of the Editor and the authors should be kept in mind rather than focusing on our major occupational hazard, the arcane disputes so cherished by many neuropathologists. Neuropathologists will find this volume an aid in teaching and a good reference source for many clinicopathological problems.

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