BOOK REVIEWS

Neurological Emergencies in Medical Practice: A Handbook for the Non-specialist

Edited by DR DAVID BOWSHER

Croom Helm, London/Sydney, 234 pp. £27.50.

As stated in the introduction, the purpose of this book is to provide a concise, symptom-oriented text on the diagnosis and management of neurological emergencies for the front-line medical practitioner. 'I feel it does just that, in a book which is also relatively small and easy to read.'

It is written by neurosurgeons and neurologists, but in a practical style which demonstrates a good understanding of the problems and needs of the so-called front-line doctor. Problems are discussed in the manner in which they present clinically, e.g. a chapter on 'funny turns'. There are also comprehensive chapters on Head Injury, Acute Intoxications, Epilepsy, Acute Visual Failure, and in fact, all the common neurological emergencies which may only present to an individual doctor infrequently.

In the Preface, we are invited by the editor, Dr David Bowsheer, to let him know if the book could be improved. As a front-line doctor, I would not be so bold as to suggest major changes, though I did appreciate the invitation. I did feel, however, that the chapter entitled 'Respiratory Failure of Neurological Origin' was a little long and unnecessarily complicated in delivering its message. Other than this, if one wanted a bone up on common neurological emergencies without being intimidated by a neurological textbook, then I think this is a book for consideration.

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Panoramic Radiology

by O. E. LANGLAND, R. P. LANGLAIS, W. D. McDAVID & A. M. DELABSO
2nd Edition

Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1989. 440 pp. £42.90

This book was originally published in 1982 and in this new 2nd Edition the 4 authors provide an up-to-date account of panoramic radiology.

The book divides into 2 sections namely principles and interpretation of radiographs. The section on principles deals with the history and the development of panoramic radiology. This section also includes information on various panoramic X-ray machines available, together with information on films, screens, processing and the biological effects of panoramic radiology.