

## Brief Reviews

### **Skeletal Muscle Pathology**

*Edited by Frank L. Mastaglia and Sir John Walton*  
 New York, Churchill Livingstone, Inc, 1983  
 648 pp, illustrated, \$95.00

This beautifully produced and presented text includes 23 chapters by a total of 28 authors describing various aspects of skeletal muscle pathology. It deserves a place on the reference shelf of every center or group interested in neurology or pathology, and undoubtedly will become the benchmark for the field. One senses that there may have been delays in bringing the book to publication, as most of the bibliography does not include works published after 1979. The dated bibliography fortunately makes relatively little difference for the most part, and it is compensated for by the extensive scholarship that marks the several sections.

### **Dementia: A Clinical Approach**

*By J. L. Cummings and D. F. Benson*  
 Boston, Butterworths, 1983  
 416 pp, illustrated, \$34.95

This well-presented volume covers in 12 chapters essentially all clinically important aspects of the major causes of dementia. The text is well written and clear and is supplemented with extensive tables, algorithms, and appropriate figures. There are 91 pages of references; most are more recent than 1970 and a few extend into 1983. The monograph can be strongly recommended for frequent ready reference by physicians caring for patients with neurological or behavioral disorders. It also will provide the single best compact reference source for use by those in allied fields who need a strong medical synthesis of neurological diseases producing increasing incapacity among the Western world's aging population.

### **Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Basic Principles**

*By Stuart W. Young*  
 New York, Raven Press, 1984  
 163 pp, illustrated, \$19.00

This is an elementary text devoting itself mostly to descriptions of basic principles of nuclear magnetic resonance imaging. It has useful appendices and a number of photographs of images obtained in various areas of the body. The volume is a good summary of the field as of approximately mid-1983. For the average neurologist, the explanations are good, although not as clear as some that have appeared elsewhere, such as those by Oldendorf. Nevertheless, this text probably deserves a place on the departmental library shelf, where browsers may give it a welcome reception.

### **Astrocytes: Normal, Reactive, and Neoplastic**

*By P. E. Duffy*  
 New York, Raven Press, 1983  
 224 pp, illustrated, \$37.00

This is a labor of love by the well-respected author, who is Director of the Division of Neuropathology at The College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. The first third of the book comprehensively discusses morphology, metabolism, and biochemistry of normal astrocyte function; the rest is devoted to considerations important in astrocytic neoplasms. The text is well written and illustrated and the volume is generally well prepared on heavy paper, although the binding on my copy was not strong enough to support the paper. A bibliography of 555 titles mainly covers material published during the 1970s, with a few titles of 1981 origin.

### **Neurofilaments**

*Edited by C. A. Marotta*  
 Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1983  
 238 pp, illustrated, \$39.50

This is a detailed, well-prepared, exhaustively thorough monograph covering essentially all of the neurobiological dimensions of its subject. It is written primarily for those involved in active research in certain directions in cellular neurobiology; for that group it can be highly recommended.

### **Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders, Research and Management**

*Edited by W. E. Kelly*  
 Springfield, IL, Charles C Thomas, 1984  
 230 pp, illustrated, \$31.75

This is a multiauthored volume of lectures given under the auspices of the Veteran's Administration, especially the Medical Center at Coatesville, Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the Thomas Jefferson School of Medicine in Philadelphia. The discussions are broad-based and range from clinical considerations to a description of selected recent research findings; there is specific consideration of problems presented to the Veteran's Administration by the increasingly aging population for which it has responsibility. The bibliography appears to extend no further than 1981.

### **Clinical Management of Seizures: A Guide for the Physician, Second Edition**

*Edited by G. E. Solomon, H. Kutt, and F. Plum*  
 Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1983  
 320 pp, illustrated, \$22.95

The second edition of this monograph has been revised and reduced to pocket size for the convenience of the user. The reference material has been updated.

### **Recent Advances in Epilepsy. No 1**

*By T. A. Pedley and B. S. Meldrum*  
 New York, Churchill Livingstone, Inc, 1983  
 255 pp, illustrated, \$35.00

This useful paperback provides up-to-date reviews on several dimensions of the phenomenology, pathogenesis, and treatment of epilepsy. The thirteen chapters include dissertations on mechanism of drug action; updates on phenytoin, valproate, and carbamazepine; pharmacological considerations in following drug therapy and searching for new drugs; infantile spasms; biorhythmic influences; telemetry; violence; interictal behavior in temporal lobe epilepsy; and drug use in perinates. The writing is clear and the bibliography extends into 1982.

### **Hypertensive Intracerebral Hemorrhage**

*Edited by M. Mizukami, H. Kanaya, K. Kogure, and Y. Yamori*  
 New York, Raven Press, 1983  
 272 pp, illustrated, \$43.00

This is a multiauthored volume of short papers that appears to be the proceedings of a symposium, although the specific location is not mentioned. Most of the chapters contain well-known material. No discussion is provided on controversial subjects; for example, there is a chapter that discusses when, rather than whether, operation is indicated for hypertensive hemorrhage.