

Neurological Examination Made Easy, 3rd Edition

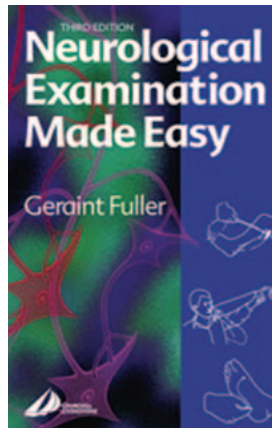
By Geraint Fuller
Churchill Livingstone 2004
Price £15.99. Pp 260
ISBN 0443074208

The title of this book is instantly appealing. Many students and junior doctors find neurology a daunting subject, often because they feel unable to easily interpret the clinical signs they find.

This book not only clearly explains the simplest way to carry out a full neurological examination, but also explains each individual finding. The explanations are comprehensive yet simple, without getting bogged down in unnecessary details and complicated anatomy.

Each chapter has the subtitles 'What to do', 'What you find' and 'What it means' – this book then goes on to do just that.

Cranial and peripheral nerves are split into short and clear chapters. The text is well laid out with plenty of eye-catching diagrams and space to add your own notes. Scattered throughout the book are flow charts taking the



reader through each examination step and what the findings imply. Speech, gait and mental state examination are also covered.

The chapter on fundoscopy is particularly good, with useful diagrams of typical retinal findings in common medical conditions.

At the end of the book are chapters on the autonomic nervous system, the unconscious patient and abnormal movements. A nice addition to an already comprehensive (but surprisingly slim) book, these extra topics also help to make this textbook stand out.

An invaluable help for clinical medical students, this book is particularly suited to junior doctors and in particular senior house officers preparing for PACES or the Boards. A new addition of the chapter 'Passing clinical examinations' covers exam technique and describes several model cases designed for post-graduate exams.

This is an exceptionally well written book and is slim enough to slip into a white coat pocket.

Claire Vandeveld,
Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham

Recent Advances in Paediatrics 22

Edited by Tim J David
RSM Press 2005
Price £35.00. Pp 242
ISBN 1853155977

This title is a well-written, concise and comprehensive update covering the latest trends within paediatrics and provides an invaluable source of information for paediatricians and allied health professionals. It is published annually with entirely new contents and is written by an international collection of authors whom are all experts in their field.

The content covers all areas of paediatrics including general paediatrics, neonatal, tropical and community paediatrics. It also has a chapter devoted to the latest developments in the paediatric literature covering every area of child health. All this coupled with its reasonable price means it is a very helpful resource for anyone with an interest in paediatrics.

Navroop S Johal
Research Fellow
Institute of Urology and Institute of Child Health

The Hands-On Guide to Clinical Pharmacology

By Christopher Tofield, Alexander Milson and Sukhdev Chatu
Blackwell Publishing
Price £12.95
ISBN 1405120150

Now in its second edition, this little book is targeted mainly at senior medical students who are being exposed to clinical medicine and pharmacology in action. The aim of the text is to bridge the gap between the pre-clinical teaching of pharmacology and the clinical use of pharmaceuticals on the wards.

Divided into systems of the body and additional sections on infection, anaesthesia and poisoning, each chapter contains the common drugs used for that particular bodily system, and starts with a brief summary on the common pathologies in that system. Each drug is outlined in a standardized format and material on indications, mechanism of action, adverse effects,

contraindications, interactions, and routes of administration for each of the 127 drugs is given.

The range of drugs included is appropriate for the target audience and the depth of material on offer is equally as well thought-out; much of this information is readily available from drug formularies, but the ease with which it can be extracted from this little book is immeasurably superior.

The only criticism of this book is that there is no mention of drug doses

or dose ranges, although one could argue that these should be obtained from a formulary anyway. In addition, there is no mention of therapeutic drug monitoring which could be summarized in a page or two. Otherwise this is a very useful resource for medical students.

Dr James Dawson
Department of Accident and Emergency,
Selly Oak Hospital,
Birmingham

