

## Mosby's Colour Atlas and Text of Neurology (2nd edn)

G David Perkins

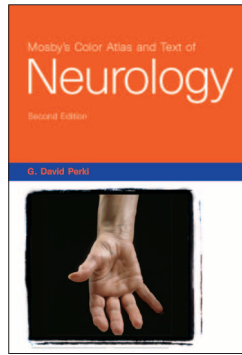
Mosby 2002

Price £28.99. Pp342

ISBN 0723432082

There are many excellent introductory neurology textbooks on the market. Most of these, however, can not match the quantity and quality of illustrations in the second edition of this book. There are photographs and pictures of clinical signs, microscopic and macroscopic pathology specimens, computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans, as well as clear colour-coded tables and boxes.

To describe this book simply as an atlas does not do it justice: it is also a comprehensive and succinct reference text. The opening chapter outlines the importance of history taking, followed by a comprehensive guide to neurological examination with anatomical correlation. The trend for symptom-based chapters is followed with chapters on



headache and facial pain, loss of consciousness and coma, vertigo, dizziness and ataxia, and disorders of higher cortical function. The remaining chapters are system-based with everything covered from muscle to the neurology of cancer, systemic disease, and psychiatry.

The value of an illustrated text is highlighted in the chapter on cerebrovascular disease which includes multicolour pictures of each of the cerebral artery territory infarctions, clear CT, MRI, Doppler and angiographic images, correlated with post mortem photographs of brain tissue.

This book is ideal for junior doctors training in general medicine, preparing for the MRCP, or starting a junior neurology post. It is also aimed at medical students but probably contains too much information for the modern integrated curriculum. The book's price reflects the quality and number of illustrations. I would highly recommend it to those looking for an introductory neurology text.

*Anand Trip, Ipswich Hospital*

## Recent Advances in Surgery 25

Colin Johnson, Irving Taylor

Royal Society of Medicine Press 2002

Price £32.95. Pp 229

ISBN 185315508

This is the 25th edition of Recent Advances and like its predecessors gives the general and specialist surgeon an opportunity to catch up on topics that are either relatively new, e.g. 'Genes and the Surgeon' or where there has been a change of emphasis e.g. 'Non-surgical treatment of pancreatic cancer'. It is inevitable that the nature of such a book is piecemeal but it must be one of the pleasures of editing such a book to choose topical areas of surgery relevant to both the practicing senior surgeon and trainee about to sit the Intercollegiate examination. Again the editors have provided a wide range of interesting chapters with a particular emphasis on the generality of surgery.

Despite being relatively short the text is designed for browsing and each chapter has the key points of clinical practice highlighted in the text. The philosophy of purpose is emphasized in the final chapter. Here the reader is provided with a précis of important randomized controlled trials in general

surgery that have been published over the past year – a continuation from previous editions. Another excellent feature is the detail of references available with each chapter.

I am sure the book and series will continue to be popular. The price needs to be watched – it is a bit expensive and being of the same vintage as the editors I am sure they have succession plans for the next team of editors.

*Paul Thomas, Whipps Cross University Hospital, London*

## 250 Cases in Clinical Medicine (3rd edn)

RR Baliga

WB Saunders 2002

Price £24.99. Pp 651

ISBN 0702026247

Why is it that after sitting examinations year after year for most of my life, I still get so anxious and stressed by the thought of another one? The rational part of me says 'who cares?' while the rest of me just quakes.

*250 Cases in Clinical Medicine* is written for both the undergraduate and for graduates preparing to sit the MRCP. Each section starts with a fools guide to clinical examination, followed

by common examination cases. The salient aspects of history and examinations for each case are highlighted and discussed, with questions for the two reader groups are posed, and answered.

The layout of this little companion is excellent, allowing the reader to easily cover a few cases in a short period of time. Photographs are used to depict clinical signs and bullet points used to deliver complex lists.

Most of the cases have at least one reference to a relevant journal article, and a brief footnote about the historical origin of that particular case, or of a related subject; e.g. Kartagener first described his eponymous syndrome in 1933.

The aim of this text is to prepare candidates for clinical examinations, and for vivas arising from these. Adequate coverage of how to examine each of the major systems, and discussion of the common pathologies seen in finals and membership should give all readers a very good chance of fully appreciating the clinical skills required of them, and of passing their exams with flying colours.

*James Dawson, Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham*