Further Section

ORL 1984;46:281-283

Book Reviews

C.R. Pfaltz
Neurophysiological and Clinical Aspects
of Vestibular Disorders
Advances in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, vol. 30 Karger, Basel 1983
XII + 372 pp.; SFr. 197.-/DM 236.-/US $ 118.00 ISBN 3-8055-3607-0
Th. Lenarz, Heidelberg

J.E. Desmedt
Language and Hemispheric
Specialization in Man:
Cerebral Event-Related Potentials
Progress in Clinical Neurophysiology, vol. 3
Karger, Basel 1977
VIII + 286 pp., 68 fig., 22 tab.; SFr./DM 98.-/
US$43.75
ISBN 3-8055-2629-6
The study of language and of higher cognitive functions of the human brain has now entered a phase of faster developments, as new and more pertinent methods of study have come into use. Cerebral event-related potentials (ERPs) recorded from various points of the scalp present a distinct advantage as points of entry for such studies. The rationale of the ERP approach involves the recording and the analysis of focal electrogene-ses of various cerebral processors related to different cognitive capacities. This book assembles as many as 18 chapters presenting critical new data and views, bearing specifically on the problems of ERP correlates of hemispheric specialization in man: ERPs and speech perception, ERPs associated with speech production, ERPs as signs of sensory processing in left and right hemispheres (speech dominance, complex verbal and spatial behavior, effect of linguistic and non-linguistic stimuli in children). An excellent book which must be recommended for those interested in obtaining a concise basis for understanding and conceptualizing higher cognitive functions in general and speech perception as well as speech production in particular.
Aspects of Modern Otolaryngological Practice is a collection of the published papers of the first congress of the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) ORL Federation. If you expect a discussion of the important unresolved and unknown problems of ORL in the developing countries, you will be disappointed. With the exception of a few and laudable papers, the book deals with modern otolaryngology as it is practised in highly industrialized nations. Papers of different quality cover a wide range of this highly specialized and subspecialized form of ORL practice. As such it may give useful information to doctors in developed countries and will ‘highlight knowledge in the field’ for doctors in developing countries, as stated in the preface. However, I doubt that this kind of information will help resolve the many problems of rural and underprivileged regions, so common in the South-East Asian Nations. Seen in this light, the book represents a missed opportunity. Information about the special aspects of Otolaryngology in tropical and developing regions is badly needed. This kind of information is important to ORL doctors all over the world. I hope that some later congress of the ASEAN ORL Federation will cover these aspects and that these papers will be published too.

Rural and Underprivileged Regions

C.R. Pfaltz, Basel
S. Prasansuk, C. Bunnag
Aspects of Modern Otolaryngological Practice
Advances in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, vol. 29 Karger, Basel 1983
XII + 236 pp.; SFr. 164.-/DM 196.-/US$ 98.25 ISBN 3-8055-3592-9

This small manual written in German presents in the first part an introduction to diagnosis of hoarseness and vocal fatigue, two leading symptoms of disorders in laryngeal function. In a second part, the author gives instructions about prophylactic measures and self-treatment of dysphonia. Summing up, a quite instructive booklet, but only for nonprofessional readers.

W.J. Oosterveld Ménière’s Disease

This ‘comprehensive appraisal’ of the disease, named after Prosper Ménière (1799-1861) is a state-of-the-art review of the extensive world literature on this subject, which ‘gives evidence of the still speculative nature of its causes and best treatment’, as N. Torok confirms at the end of his historical outline. This monograph is a collection of contributions from authorities on all the various aspects of Ménière’s disease, edited by W. Oosterveld, a very competent and well-known scientist in the field of neuro-otology.

The majority of the authors are very critical and concise in their conclusions. J.D. Hood in his excellent chapter on audiology concludes that Ménière’s disease still remains an aetiological and a therapeutic enigma, a statement which is also confirmed by P. Bretlau, J. Thomsen, M. Tos and N.J. Johnsen at the end of their chapter on the surgical management: ‘...it remains to be shown that it is the specific surgical procedure of whatever kind, that is responsible for the claimed effect on the symptoms, rather than a more unspecific influence on the inner ear or even the
placebo effect ...’. Although differences of opinion will remain, most of us will agree with the final conclusions of the late G. Dohlmann, one of the greatest and finest scientists in the field of otology, written shortly before his death: ‘... histopathology and pathophysiology of the Ménière syndrome support the concept that this syndrome is an entity based on one single causative factor leading to the conclusion that this constitutes a well-defined unit with the criteria of the disease ...
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This excellent monograph deserves widespread use by clinicians and scientists concerned with neuro-oto-logical problems.
C.R. Pfaltz, Basel
Collin S. Karmody
Textbook of Otolaryngology
This condensed textbook was written for students of medicine at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels and for the primary care physician. The objective of this text was to provide a logical, rational and easily comprehensible basis for the practice of up to date oto-rhino-laryngology. Emphasis is laid on diagnosis and management rather than on surgical techniques. Circumstantial description of functional anatomy and pathophysiology has not been neglected but remains on the whole unfortunately inadequate. On the other hand, the author has made a successful attempt to detail fundamental and practical diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the head and neck, and to introduce the most recent thoughts in this specialty. Illustrations are generous and complementary to the text, although the black and white reproductions are unfortunately less informative than colour plates. Summing up, this is an attractive and sensibly priced ORL textbook.
C.R. Pfaltz, Basel
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W. Draf
Endoscopy of the Paranasal Sinuses
Technique – Typical Findings – Therapeutic Possibilities
Springer, Berlin 1983
X + 102 pp.; DM 68.-/US $ 29.30
ISBN 3-540-11258-8
The present monograph is a product of many years’ work in the field of paranasal sinus endoscopy. It was conceived primarily as a practical introduction into a new diagnostic method, which still had some technical shortcomings. The development of optical instruments with a larger field of vision and an optically controlled biopsy forceps improved this endoscopic method considerably. It is now a well-established diagnostic procedure; however, its importance should not be overrated. Not all of us would agree with the author’s opinion that paranasal sinus endoscopy provides a curative therapy of chronic suppurative inflammatory diseases of the maxillary and the frontal sinus and that in many cases a more radical operation of the sinuses can be avoided. Moreover, there is also no proof for the author’s conclusion that the success rate of paranasal sinus surgery has been improved by the introduction of sinus endoscopy. Statements of this kind imply dangerous pitfalls for young specialists who have only little experience in the
field of sinus pathology. Irrespective of this critical comment this monograph is an excellent practical manual, providing concise detailed information on up-to-date sinus endoscopy. C.R. Pfaltz, Basel
Gerhard Böhme
Sprach-, Sprech- und Stimmtörungen
The second edition of this textbook on speech pathology – written in German – is an up-to-date revision of the former issue. Although it is an integrated part of a comprehensive 3 volume handbook of speech pathology, it remains a self-contained textbook, providing detailed information on the clinical aspects of vocal and speech disorders, including both the underlying mechanisms of neuropsychiatric disorders and the interaction of disorders of the auditory system. This second edition will continue to serve as the standard textbook of speech pathology for German-speaking specialists in ORL, pediatrics, neurology, psychiatry and maxillofacial reconstructive surgery. C.R. Pfaltz, Basel

Y. Guerrier, A. Uziei
Physiologie Neuro-Sensorielle en ORL
The present publication is an up-do-date textbook on neurosensory physiology. The main topics – treated in separate chapters by different authors – concern the physiological mechanisms of olfaction and taste, auditory and vestibular function and finally the physiology of the cranial nerves. Both text (in French) and illustrations are very instructive and will not only help the resident in training who is preparing his ORL specialty examination, but it will interest also the ENT specialists, the neurologist, ophthalmologist, physiologist and biologist looking for concise basic information on the physiological mechanisms in sensory organs and cranial nerves.
C.R. Pfaltz, Basel

This is the third volume of a series subserving the continuous education of the otolaryngologist. The subjects are chosen at random; the articles are mostly surveys of a given subject, more extensive than in a journal but less formal than in a textbook. The subjects cover a wide range of themes reaching from cochlear-implants to acupuncture, and most of them give personal statements rather than objective reviews. Summing up, this book provides easily and quickly some valuable information about modern trends in otorhinolaryngology.
R. Probst, Basel