

Book Reviews

The Handbook of Clinical Neurology, Parts I, II, and III

Edited by P.J. Vinken, G.W. Bruyn and E. Uchio. Available from Elsevier Science BV, P.O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands, or from Elsevier Science Inc., P.O. Box 945, Madison Square Station, New York NY 10160-0757, USA. Price: Part I US\$293.00, Part II US\$258.00, Part III US\$247.00. ISBN: 0-444-82778-2.

Continuing the tradition of providing an in-depth source for different branches of clinical neurology, Elsevier published three volumes of *The Handbook of Clinical Neurology* in 1997. These are volumes 67, 68 and 69, which correspond to volumes 23, 24 and 25 of the revised series. The three volumes (Parts I, II, III) cover the fundamental and practical aspects of the diagnosis and treatment of brain tumors, along with the necessary information on the biological background of these conditions. Recent advances in imaging techniques during the past two decades have increased the knowledge of the clinical behavior of brain tumors, and this is well reflected, especially in Part II, where primary brain tumors are discussed.

Part I attempts the formidable task of covering advances in the biology of brain tumors and new techniques in neurological treatment, as well as chemotherapy, immunotherapy and gene therapy. These have all seen tremendous advances since the earlier publication of the neuro-oncology volumes of the handbook in the mid-seventies. Such advances, though difficult to put in concise terms, have been well covered in Part I. Part III covers the problems associated with systemic cancer, whether it is metastatic, metabolic, or immunologic. Other areas of patient care, such as headache, pain, epilepsy and complications of chemotherapy, are also well covered.

Considering the difficulties usually encountered in putting together information on such a wide and diverse area of clinical and research advances, the editors have done an excellent job in keeping the volumes down to manageable sizes. As is the case with all multi-authored books, coverage, clarity and usefulness of the information vary from chapter to chapter. Again the authors did well in streamlining the chapters in a harmonious way. The information provided in the books is clinically relevant and useful.

Despite the explosion in medical informatics, the handbook tries to maintain its classical position as a standard reference book for students and educators in the

field of neurology, and as a starting point for people involved in research in clinical neurology. One wonders how long it is going to be before the electronic wave modifies it into a CD-ROM version.

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Advances in the Prevention of Occupational Respiratory Diseases

Edited by K. Chiyotani, Y. Hosoda and Y. Aizawa. Available from Elsevier Science BV, P.O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands, or from Elsevier Science Inc., P.O. Box 945, Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10160-0757, USA. Price: US\$296.00. ISBN: 0-444-82791-9.

Advances in the Prevention of Occupational Respiratory Diseases is a compilation of the studies and abstracts/research work presented at the 9th Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases (9th ICORD). The book deals with occupational exposures in almost all aspects of industrial materials and associated human respiratory problems, as well as several research studies on exposure-related lung diseases in animal models. The book provides relevant information on industrial particles and chemical exposures. It deals at length with the exposure to silica and asbestos-related lung damage.

Advances in the Prevention of Occupational Respiratory Diseases presents good clinical and research material for medical students, clinicians and researchers interested in occupational lung diseases. It is nicely organized for review and the language used is simple and easily understood. Valuable information is presented on exposure-related lung damage, preventive measures and new radiological advances in the diagnosis of exposure-related occupational lung disease.

The authors are to be commended for compiling this information. It is a valuable addition to current information on occupational lung diseases.

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