BOOK REVIEW

Handbook of Lower Extremity Neurology. Ed by Steven Mandel, MD, and Jeanean Willis, DPM. 288 pages, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Philadelphia, PA, 2000. $59.95.

The aim of this book is to consolidate information on neurologic disease as manifested in the lower extremities in order to facilitate prompt and efficient diagnosis and treatment. Although there are 45 contributing authors—mostly MDs and DPMs from the Philadelphia medical community—the text is quite uniform and easy to understand. The book's focus on the lower extremity saves the reader the effort usually necessary to wade through a thick, comprehensive neurology textbook in an attempt to glean information pertinent to podiatric medicine.

Particularly informative and useful are the chapters on nerve injuries, polyneuropathy, entrapment neuropathy, toxic agents, back pain, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, and physical therapy. The information is generally current, and helpful summaries are provided on such topics as electromyographic, nerve conduction velocity, and somatosensory evoked potential testing; reflex sympathetic dystrophy treatment; and restless leg syndrome.

The limited and relatively inconclusive discussion of chronic pain reflects the general lack of agreement on the diagnosis and management of this difficult clinical problem. There is a good discussion of the *American Medical Association Guide to Functional Capacity Evaluation*. Unfortunately, the book does not address the inadequacies of the tables that assign levels of disability with respect to the lower extremities when consulting the *American Medical Association Guidelines for the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*.

As in many neurology textbooks, there is a paucity of illustrations. In addition, relatively little information is presented on magnetic resonance imaging of peripheral nerve lesions such as scar entrapments, Morton's neuroma, and tumors. One suggestion for future editions would be a glossary of neurologic terms for quick reference.

Despite these flaws, this book, with its broadly useful clinical applications as well as soft-cover affordability, fufills the editors' design as a "reference manual for practicing physicians, students and other healthcare personnel."

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