

Preface to the Second Edition

As with the first publication, the aim of this new, slimmer edition is to present information about neurological disorders in a structured and succinct way, following a “trickle down” principle: beginning with overviews and then moving on to specific disease categories. The latter address clinical features (i.e., information accessed by history-taking and physical examination), investigations, differential diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis. In this new edition, diagnostic criteria have been referenced where appropriate, but not included, both for fear of making the book too unwieldy and because this has already been done elsewhere.¹ Neurological signs are omitted and neuropsychology is not discussed in detail, since both these undertakings have been presented elsewhere.^{2,3} Cross-references to the Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM) database have been given where relevant.

George Orwell pointed out (“Why I write,” 1946) that “writing a book is a horrible, exhausting struggle, like a long bout of some painful illness.” It has sometimes seemed so with this book, but we hope that Orwell’s other dictum, that “every book is a failure,” does not prove entirely true and that our readers find something of use in these pages. We thank Manika Power at Springer for taking the book on, and for her unstinting encouragement in bringing it to fruition.

References

1. Larner AJ. Diagnostic Criteria in Neurology. Totawa, NJ: Humana Press; 2006.
2. Larner AJ. A Dictionary of Neurological Signs. 3rd ed. New York: Springer; 2011.
3. Larner AJ. Neuropsychological Neurology: The Neurocognitive Impairments of Neurological Disorders. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press; 2008.

A-Z of Neurological Practice

A Guide to Clinical Neurology

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