

laboratories of Korneluk and McKenzie. The journals *Nature* and *Science* are surveyed but not the basic neuroscience journals such as *Neuron* or *The Journal of Neuroscience* in which clinically relevant discoveries in neuroscience are often published. The molecular basis of neurology and neurosurgery is well represented in some chapters, for example that on neuromuscular disorders, but barely at all in other chapters, such as the one on neuro-oncology.

Perhaps the greatest value of a year book to neurosurgeons is to draw attention to relevant articles in journals that they do not peruse regularly. For example, the substantial chapter on spinal disorders contains an article documenting an important genetic component of degenerative disease; another article from the *British Medical Journal* indicates that chiropractic care can be beneficial for low back pain, and a meta-analysis from the anesthesia literature suggests that epidural injection of corticosteroid can alleviate sciatica. The average neurosurgeon would not likely see these articles. In another article published in *Acta Neurochirurgica* it is suggested that recurrence rates after simple removal of a free lumbar disc fragment may be as low as or lower than after additional discectomy.

For many clinicians, a year book is still helpful in keeping them up to date, providing an eclectic collection

of data, much of which may not be drawn from a directed computer search or from review articles. The longevity of this year book attests to its utility and popularity.

**Peter M. Richardson, MD**

Professor of Surgery, Neurology and Neurosurgery  
McGill University  
Montreal, Que.

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**THE YEAR BOOK OF UROLOGY 1996.** Jean B. DeKernion and Stuart S. Howards. 462 pp. Illust. Mosby-Year Book, Inc., St. Louis. 1996. Can\$115. ISBN 0-8151-3483-3

This year book provides an excellent review of the important urologic articles presented in the literature during 1995. It includes 36 chapters covering different aspects of urology. Over 3000 articles were reviewed to select the most informative and interesting papers. Articles from 54 different journals are presented in this 1996 edition.

Each of the selected articles is accompanied by a concise abstract and all important tables and graphs. This concept provides the reader with an excellent review of the literature on topics such as oncology, female urology, pediatrics, reconstructive surgery and infertility. Furthermore, a com-

ment by one of the leading experts in the field follows each article to help reinforce the positive and negative aspects of the paper.

In our busy practice, we tend to follow the literature with only a selected number of journals. This book provides a good opportunity to review the important articles published in journals that most urologists do not read regularly. It also provides an excellent opportunity to rapidly review the recent literature on topics that are of less interest or are less familiar to the reader.

On the other hand, the book was completed in November 1996, and all the articles were published in 1995, which means that some articles will be outdated by the time the book is published. There is no way around this problem for the authors in the few areas where knowledge and concepts are evolving rapidly. For such areas, the reader should be alerted that the information may not be as pertinent as when the articles were first published.

Overall this year book is a valuable text for all urologists and residents in training. It provides an excellent review of the pertinent literature on different urologic topics.

**Simon Tanguay, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Urology  
McGill University  
Montreal, Que.

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