The book is well written and entertaining, providing both new interpretations of developmental stages for psychoanalysts and a good basic review of the fundamental psychoanalytic principles for those of us who are less familiar with these principles. The main body of the book describes in great detail rituals in several different Papua New Guinea tribes. These rituals are basically the same, with slight variation from tribe to tribe. These sections become repetitive, but the final chapter provides relief. The chapter, "Masculinization in Papua New Guinea and its Impact on Psychoanalytic Theory," is the most interesting one in the book; it summarizes the key differences between masculine identity formation in different cultures and adds to Freud's formulation of the Oedipal conflict.

This exceedingly interesting book raises fundamental questions about the differences between males and females and strives to address why it is that all societies have a need for clear distinction between the sexes. Anyone interested in psychiatry, psychodynamically oriented anthropology, or simply cultures that differ greatly from our own, will find this a fascinating book.

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ESSENTIALS OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY. By Carl H. Gunderson. New York, Raven Press, 1990. 550 pp. $50.00.

Essentials of Clinical Neurology is an intermediate-sized tome on neurological diagnosis and treatment. From the start, the author states that his goal is not to follow the examples of other "encyclopedic" volumes such as Merritt or Adams and Victor, but rather to provide a distilled body of facts.

The book is organized into four parts. Part one, "Introduction to Neurological Evaluation," provides brief introductions to the currently available neurodiagnostic modalities, including the electroencephalogram (EEG), electromyogram (EMG), computerized axial tomogram (CAT), and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). As is true of the remainder of the book, this part is well organized and quite easy to follow. In general, the reproductions of MRI and CT scans are of good quality. Part two, "Analysis of Common Neurological Complaints," contains chapters on movement disorders, sensory disorders, neurology of vision, headache, dementia, and aphasia. Each chapter initially provides a review of the basic neuroanatomy and neurophysiology; these reviews are particularly well done in the chapters on movement disorders and the neurology of vision. Much of the emphasis is on diagnosis, and each chapter provides pertinent aspects of patient history, the neurological exam as well as a condensed differential diagnosis. Parts three and four discuss differential diagnoses and selected neurological diseases.

A strength of this book is its organization. First, it is written in outline format. In addition, the basic terminology is not assumed, and all terms (e.g., hypotonia, akathisia) are well defined; however, I did not really find the distinction between the major subheadings (parts two through four) to be very helpful. Another criticism is that certain areas, such as child neurology, are entirely lacking, although the author does mention this as a shortcoming in the introduction.

Despite these criticisms, this work is an exceptionally well-assembled volume. What
distinguishes it from others is the author's gift of distilling information. He intentionally avoids the encyclopedic approach, while, at the same time, avoiding the pitfalls of many of the smaller manuals which provide choppy, partially digested bits of information. The choice of facts leaves the reader with a true gestalt of neurological disease. The emphasis on basic physiology, diagnosis, and treatment makes the book particularly appropriate for neurology residents.

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