Book Review

Atlas of Neuroanatomy with Radiologic Correlation and Pathologic Illustration. By Arthur Brooks Dublin and William Brooks Dublin. St. Louis: Green, 252 pp., 1982.

Computed tomographic (CT) scanning of the brain has become an indispensable tool in the practice of neurology during the past 12 years. Because clinicians and radiologists are required to learn the art of interpreting CT scans, many atlases and textbooks of various degrees of sophistication have been published.

This brief atlas contains photographs of normal and abnormal brain and is aimed at beginners. The authors, a neuroradiologist and a well-known neuropathologist, demonstrate important anatomic structures of the brain in various angles aided by appropriate cross sections so that the anatomy can be readily recognized in the CT scans. To emphasize normal anatomy, 160 of 258 pages deal with the normal brain. There are diagrams of embryologic development and major cerebrospinal fluid cisterns. Angiograms of the normal arterial and venous systems are also included. The remainder of the atlas is divided into six short chapters: Congenital Malformations, Infections, Injuries, Tumors, Metabolic Disturbances, and Miscellaneous Conditions.

As an atlas, this book discusses neither the physical principles of a CT scanner nor instructs the reader in its use. There is no classification or general description of the various pathologic conditions of the brain. These omissions are unfortunate as some comment on the CT scans in general and the pathologic specimens in particular by these well-qualified authors would have improved the quality and usefulness of this book. There is also no bibliography or index.

Although the reproduction and labeling of the photographs of the brain specimens are excellent, the CT images are less attractive. Most of the CT scans are from second generation scanners and do not compare with recent scans, which show the brain in considerable detail. Another weakness is the lack of correlation between the brain specimen and the CT scans. Although the final diagnosis of representative conditions is the same, the brain in the CT scan and the brain in the pathologic specimen are from different patients and do not completely correspond. In addition, some of the CT scans with a given diagnosis are not proven by pathology.

This book can be useful to medical students, radiologic residents, and some clinicians as an introductory atlas and as supplemental reading with a basic textbook of CT scanning.

K. Jack Momose
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA 02114