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## Book Review

### Neuroendoscopy of the Central Nervous System

Editors: George Jallo, James E Conway, László Bognár

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‘What is the use of books’, thought Alice, ‘without pictures or conversations?’ **Lewis Carroll** (1832-1898)

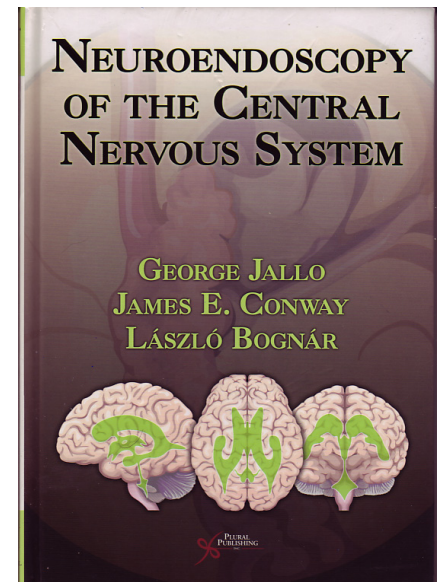
What is the role of books in a rapidly advancing field as neurosurgery? While the latest facts can be gleaned from journals, books are still indispensable. Good books not only deliver a coherent narrative on the subject matter but also inspire the reader. In ‘Neuroendoscopy of the Central Nervous system’, the seasoned neuroendoscopist will find useful information to enhance his/her practice. The book is well written and beautifully illustrated, that even Alice would have enjoyed it. The book is small, extended over ninety-five pages and, at

the current listed-price, might be somewhat steep for residents in these times of financial austerity. However, as John Ruskin had wrote back in the nineteenth-century, ‘If a book is worth reading, it is worth buying’.

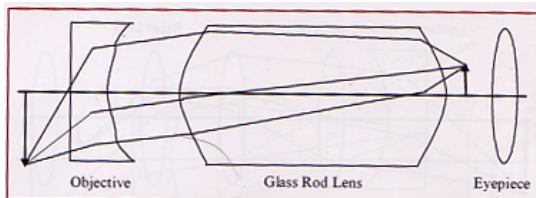


The book is organised into ten chapters. The first four chapters deal with the background to neuroendoscopy: history, optics, equipment and ventricular anatomy. A while back, I had spent a couple of days hunting around various neurosurgery textbooks, journals and the web to understand the

principles of rod lens system used in the rigid endoscopes. The effort had been in vain. So I was delighted to read the chapter on ‘Neuroendoscopic optics’ by W Stanley Anderson. The chapter explains the physics of neuroendoscopes in a simple way that could be understood by neurosurgeons.



The rest of the book gives details of neuroendoscopic procedures: Surgical approaches for neuroendoscopic procedures, Endoscopic third ventriculostomy, Endoscopic shunt placement, Aqueductoplasty, Fenestration of cystic collections, Ventricular tumour biopsy and resection. The chapters initially give the indications and contraindications for performing the endoscopic procedures and then description of the techniques. However, this book is not an atlas of neuroendoscopy. This book also does not address the burgeoning field of endoscopy assisted surgery.



Despite its price, I think every resident should own a copy of this book. Those running neuroendoscopic courses might consider including this book in their course manual. I am sure this book would be the foundation of many future neuroendoscopists and congratulate the authors on a fine accomplishment.

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