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978-1-107-60760-6 - Neuropsychological Neurology: The Neurocognitive Impairments of Neurological Disorders:
Second Edition

A. J. Larner

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Neuropsychological Neurology

The Neurocognitive Impairments of
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A. J. Larner

Consultant Neurologist

Cognitive Function Clinic

Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery

Liverpool, UK



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every effort has been made to disguise the identities of the individuals involved.
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To Thomas and Elizabeth

**Disorders of intellect . . . happen much more
often than superficial observers will easily
believe.**

Samuel Johnson: *The History of Rasselas, Prince
of Abyssinia* (1759)

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Foreword

Timothy D. Griffiths

Professor of Cognitive Neurology,
Newcastle University, UK

This impressive single-author work sets out the psychological features of all of the common (and a number of not-so-common) neurological and medical disorders.

Neurologists often regard the psychological examination as a bit of a black art. However, the psychological examination can be regarded as a similar tool to the standard neurological examination as a means to establish “profiles” of deficits that implicate particular parts of the nervous system. I see the principal utility of this work as being the demystification of cognitive profiles to enable neurologists to have an idea of what to expect and what not to expect in a large number of disorders. The book includes both conventional cognitive disorders, such as acute and chronic memory disorders, and also neurological disorders in which cognitive deficits are not the most striking manifestations, in which it will serve as a useful reference. If you survey patients and their families that suffer from cognitive symptoms, what they appreciate most in the cognitive clinic is a clear explanation of the nature and effect of their disorder. This work provides a basis for such explanation.

Neuropsychological neurology is by definition a two-way street that requires a close collaboration between neurology and neuropsychology. A number of cognitive clinics in the UK, including my own, are run as joint clinics that cross between the two disciplines. Many neurologists, however, do not have the luxury of spending time with neuropsychology colleagues and this work will help them

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to know what to ask neuropsychology colleagues about in given disorders. This book will also be helpful to neuropsychologists who might need to demystify, for example, peculiar genetic conditions with ack-ack names and understand what cognitive deficits should be expected and sought. If the book helps neurologists and neuropsychologists to talk to each other more usefully that will be a valuable outcome in itself.

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Preface to the second edition

The aim of the second edition of this book remains the same as in the first, namely to review what is known about the neuropsychological or neurocognitive impairments that occur in neurological disorders and in some general medical conditions that may be seen by neurologists. A phenomenological perspective is presented, using an etiological classification of neurological disorders (in the absence of a comprehensive pathogenic/molecular classification), an approach which at least has the advantage of being familiar to practising neurologists. The volume may be seen as the theoretical companion to a prior, practical volume that attempted to summarize the author's clinical experience of working in a cognitive disorders clinic over more than a decade [1].

There are two major changes from the first edition, one omission and one addition. The omission is the long section devoted to "Bedside neuropsychological test instruments" (first edition, Section 1.8, pp. 22–32), because these issues have since been covered in greater detail elsewhere [1,2]. The addition has been two further chapters, devoted to sleep-related disorders (Chapter 11) and psychiatric disorders (Chapter 12), respectively, both of which may be encountered in cognitive disorders clinics. All the pre-existing chapters have been thoroughly revised and updated, and there has been some reordering to make the text more logical.

As in the first edition, detailed discussions of the neurological features of the disorders covered and of neurological signs are not included, further concise

information on which may be obtained elsewhere
[3,4].

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[4] Larner AJ. *A Dictionary of Neurological Signs* (3rd edn). New York, NY: Springer, 2011.

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At Cambridge University Press, I thank Nicholas Dunton and Joanna Chamberlin for their continued faith in this project.

My principal debt of gratitude remains to Sue, my ever-supportive and endlessly forgiving partner.

All errors or misconceptions that remain are entirely my own work. I shall be pleased to hear from readers who detect errors or omissions.