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Book Review

TINNITUS: SOURCE READINGS (1841-1980)

Robert T Sataloff, Dimiter I Dentshev, Mary J Hawshaw (Eds.)

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This book is a compendium of historical but current literature on the subject of **tinnitus**, pre-dating the 20th century. The authors blamed the sluggish knowledge in the management of tinnitus on deficient research interests. In contrast, they presented the rich clinical acumen of the 19th century practitioners and showed very little improvement to what is already known on the subject. In providing a summary of historical but interesting and inspiring literature, the authors hope to stimulate more research which would lead to improvements in the current management of tinnitus.

The book chapters are of unequal length but the layout is easy to follow. Chapter 1, which is the 'Overview of Tinnitus', provided a very good introductory background on the aetiology and management of this condition. The second chapter, on the 'Receptors in the Auditory Pathway', is a summary of the basic science of neurotransmission and an essential component in its understanding and future research needs. Chapters 3 to 7 outline the 140 years historical review of the case reports which dominated the

publications in the 19th century. The first case report was from the *Lancet*, in 1841, and the last one, in 1897, was published in *Laryngoscope*. Extensive publications on the management of tinnitus dominated the early and mid 20th century database and ranged from the anticoagulant treatment of sudden deafness (*J Laryngol.* 1964; **78**: 583–586) to a subject which 'everybody talks about it but nobody does anything about it' (*Eye, Ear, Nose Throat Monthly.* 1965; **44**: 311).

I would have loved to see a list of the Source Articles discussed in this book

for ease of reference. Notwithstanding, this is a welcome addition to the subject of tinnitus, which has more or less remained elusive to practitioners in this field for more than a century.

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