

Notices and Books

VISUAL EVOKED POTENTIALS IN CENTRAL DISORDERS OF THE VISUAL SYSTEM Kenneth A. Kooi and Robert E. Marshall 1979. Harper & Row Publishers, Hagerstown, Maryland. 169 pages.

THE PROSENCEPHALIES — Morphology, Neuroradiological Appearances and Differential Diagnosis. Franz Paul Probst in cooperation with A. Brun and I. Pascual-Castroviejo 1979. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York. 145 pages. \$64.90.

CECIL'S TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE. Paul B. Beeson, Walsh McDermott, James B. Wyngaarden 1979. W.B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, London, Toronto. 2357 pages.

RECENT ADVANCES IN NEUROPATHOLOGY Edited by W. Thomas Smith, J.B. Cavanagh, 1979. Churchill, Livingstone, London, 325 pages. \$30.40. Available in Canada from Academic Press Canada Ltd., 55 Barber Greene Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 2A1.

Sixteen contributors have written the twelve chapters of this book and they are all excellent.

The recent technical developments in the field of tracer techniques are well described by Olsson and Kristensson. The application of these methods to the study of vascular permeability in various parts of the nervous system as well as axonal flow in two directions is covered.

Igor Klatzo has a succinct summary and discussion of cerebral edema and ischemia and P. D. Lewis has written a first class section on cell turnover. Regeneration in the central nervous system by Berry is covered in such detail as to be a prime source for the interested reader. Berry's chapter is twenty-five pages long and is followed

by eighteen pages of references. The rest of this book is of the same high quality.

E.J. Field's chapter on M.S. asks more questions than it answers and so it should. Some possibly fruitful research avenues are clearly suggested in his chapter. Reading this book is a pleasure. It is like attending a miniature post-graduate seminar on twelve different subjects. Hopefully the publishers will repeat it every three to five years.

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EPILEPSY: NEUROTRANSMITTER, BEHAVIOUR AND PREGNANCY. Joint publication of Canadian League against Epilepsy, Western Institute on Epilepsy (1979). Juhn A. Wada, Editor. Available from Editor at Health Science Centre Hospital, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5.

This booklet contains brief, informative articles on topics relative to epilepsy which are not treated in most textbooks and reviews.

The first part, "Neurotransmitter Update in Epilepsy" is highlighted by Michael Corcoran's excellent review of the role which catecholamines play in preventing seizures in several animal epileptic models. The work is supplemented by a valuable reference list. The fact-searching reader will be less rewarded by the article by E.G. McGeer which describes in a general overview some newer developments in neurochemistry which merit further experimental enquiry. T.L. Perry presents his group's investigation into aminoacid content of human epileptogenic foci and its significance. This first section concludes with a succinct review by E. Puil of the central actions of GABA and of the convulsant bicuculline, a review whose value is enhanced by its references.

A second section concerns individual behaviour in epilepsy. D.M. Bear describes "typical" interictal behaviour changes among patients with temporal lobe epilepsy in one study by comparing them with patients afflicted with

neuromuscular disease and with normals and in another study by comparing psychiatric inpatients with temporal lobe epilepsy to those with other seizure disorders. Neither methodology justifies the conclusions: the former mismatches control groups and the latter examines only a small segment of each epileptic population. His chapter concludes with an interesting review of behavioural changes consequent to ablative and epileptogenic experiments in the limbic system and temporal lobe. The value of D. Blumer's review of the psychiatric aspects of temporal lobe epilepsy is impeded by omission of methodology of the studies cited. J. Pincus et al report their study showing a higher incidence of psychomotor seizures among violent delinquents than among non-violent delinquents. I. Sherwin concludes this section with a discussion on the psychopathology of epilepsy and includes some methodological pitfalls encountered in this type of research.

The final section, Pregnancy and Epilepsy, begins with a most useful discussion of the effect of epilepsy on pregnancy by Z.A. Brown, including complications of anticonvulsants, the differential diagnosis of seizures in pregnancy, and some thoughtful considerations on management. The reader should verify suggested dosages as typographical errors creep in. J.W. Hanson reviews the data relating effects of anticonvulsants on the fetus. R.E. Ramsay's valuable account of studies of phenytoin pharmacodynamics in pregnancy completes this section.

This booklet brings together valuable information relative to certain aspects of epilepsy found in few other works. Any physician managing epileptic patients will find clinically helpful data in the section on pregnancy. The neurologist-neuroscientist will value the concise update on neurotransmitters. All sections offer clues to the direction of future research.

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