tations of ambulatory cassette recordings, computer application for data reduction and seizure and spike recognition, and the power and pitfalls of monitoring techniques in differentiating "fits from faints". Broad applications including the pre-surgical evaluation are well-covered. Although some chapters give good descriptions of subcategories of primary generalized and complex partial seizures, this material is available in other more general texts on epilepsy.

Unfortunately, I feel the weaknesses outweigh the qualities of the book. There should be a more clear definition of research versus routine clinical application of the technology. Throughout the book the value of such monitoring is repeatedly stressed, yet there are no controlled studies to support its superiority over conventional clinical and EEG evaluations. The case for this technology would be more convincing if it were not so over-stated in many of the chapters. Although intensive monitoring may be occasionally of value in some of the primary generalized epilepsies (particularly for genetic, biochemical and drug research), it is likely seldom necessary in the vast majority of cases. The statement that "The development of more and more specific anticonvulsant drugs for individual seizure types has mandated the identification of individual seizure types with greater accuracy" (Page 15) in my opinion is inaccurate. The recommendation that such technology be applied to patients with episodic aggression (Pages 203-217) is unjustified, in that only a handful of such cases have been identified in the world's experience.

Soon after Laennec invented the stethoscope, many physicians expressed unwillingness to depend on instruments over conventional diagnostic methods. It is the hope of this reviewer that the flaws in this book will not lead neurologists to be biased against the considerable value and promise of this developing field.

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SYRINGOBULBIA — A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF THE BRAINSTEM. 1986. By N. Jonesco-Sisesti. Translated into English, edited and annotated by Dr. Robert T. Ross. Published by Praeger, New York and London. 315 pages. $65 Cdn. approx.

In 1932 the Rumanian neurologist Dr. Jonesco-Sisesti, student of Guillain at the Salpetriere, published a monograph on syringobulbia. It is an excellent example of the descriptive neurology that was so well done by the neurologists of that era, and which was so important in the development of neurology.

Jonesco-Sisesti describes eleven cases of syringobulbia, four with autopsies, and carefully correlates the signs with the pathology. For those interested in the development of knowledge and understanding of the brainstem and its function will find this a very useful source book.

One of the pleasant experiences for me in reading this volume was a view of an age of neurology when names such as Bischoff, Cajal, Volkmann, Winkler, L'Hermitte, Lermoyez, Guillain, VonMonakow, and Dejerine are mentioned as contributors to the thought and ideas of the time. I wonder if the neurologists beginning practice today revere the "greats" as in past generations. But then knowledge and change was preceding at a slower pace, and the prominent and powerful were leaders for a generation. Perhaps the pace and change of current knowledge may lead to the rapid productive careers of young clinical investigators and scientists being replaced sooner by the next group of young Turks.

The clinical reviews of cases by Jonesco-Sisesti are painstaking, and it's salutary to again see the careful clinical observation that formed the basis of modern neurology. How long has it been since we saw someone recording Oppenheim's, Gordon's, Schaeffer's reflexes as part of the clinical examination. One must pause when reading that the "mediopublic reflex produced a definite inferior response and a weak superior response", but the pause is enjoyable as it recalls the impeccable respect for the neurological examination prior to the age of technology.

Dr. Ross was given the idea for this project may years ago by the late Dr. J. Godwin Greenfield, and it clearly was a labour of love. In an unusual format Dr. Ross has translated Jonesco-Sisesti's text, and then added an addendum to each chapter bringing the information up to date, and adding techniques such as CT and MRI scans to demonstrate the ideas and principles. However, it works very well, and added to the interest of the historic text.

I enjoyed this return to a past age of neurology, and feel that Dr. Ross has added an important contribution to the neurological literature by translating this volume into English, and again bringing it to the attention of clinicians and scientists.

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TOPOGRAPHIC HISTOCHEMISTRY OF THE CEREBELLUM. 1986. By Enrico Marani. Published by Gustaf Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart and New York. 169 pages. $84.50 Cdn. approx.

Professor Marani of Leiden University, The Netherlands, has demonstrated an organization of the cerebellar cortex in mammals not previously suspected from classical histology, Golgi impregnations, or electron microscopy: alternating longitudinal bands in the molecular and granular layers correspond to high and low concentrations of enzymatic activities associated with afferent neurotransmitter systems. This histochemical topography denotes the distribution of mossy and especially climbing fibres originating outside the cerebellum. A similar pattern is found in the inferior olivary nuclei.

This small, soft-cover book, representing volume 16, number 4 in the series "Progress in Histochemistry and Cytochemistry", is a summary compilation of Professor Marani's investigations spanning the past decade, integrated with related studies by others. Conclusions are based mainly on histochemical evidence, with confirmation of some details by quantitative biochemical and immunocytochemical techniques. Two enzymes are the focal points: acetylcholinesterase and 5′-nucleotidase. The longitudinal band pattern is demonstrated in the cerebellum of mammals ranging from rodents to carnivores and primates. Ontogeny is considered briefly, but I would have preferred a more thorough discussion of embryonic development. A few chapters are written by guest authors. The book is well illustrated and the reference are extensive.

Though this book contains few if any new, previously unpublished data, it is a well organized, condensed survey of the topic and should save many hours of library work for investigators of cerebellar organization. The price is high, but worth it to those actively engaged in this domain.

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