In a brief chapter on febrile convulsions a suggestion is made that arginine vasopressin, which can excite seizures in rats if injected intraventricularly and is preferentially released by febrile rats, may serve as a model for children. Professor Cooper is however careful to point out that there is no evidence to date that AVP is involved in febrile seizures in children.

This careful work encompasses over 30 years of work dedicated to the topic. It is a judicious account of a facet of medicine and neurology that interfaces with us all on both a personal and professional level.

John Tibbles
Victoria, British Columbia

DISABLED CHILDREN & DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. 1995. Edited by Pam Zinkin and Helen McConachie. Published by Cambridge University Press. 238 pages. $C78.00.

I have had an opportunity to visit several developing countries over the years as an Examiner and Lecturer. I am impressed by the ingenuity and creativity of those responsible for providing services to handicapped children. These individuals make do with limited resources and increasingly tend to conceive of programs based on cultural and environmental needs rather than relying on projects or expertise imported from the Western world.

Disabled Children & Developing Countries is a multi-authored book which serves to highlight programs for the developmentally disabled in many undeveloped countries. The book consists of 15 chapters ranging from an overview of child disability services and intervention programs in the United States and Great Britain to the development of highly successful programs for the habilitation of handicapped children in India and Bangladesh. Although the book would have little practical value in addressing the medical and preventative health care needs of children in developing countries, it will be a useful resource of those committed to establishing prevention and educational programs on behalf of the disabled child whether in a developed or developing country.

Robert H.A. Haslam
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“The student looking over the political map of a continent may little realize the complexity of the populations and states so simply represented” (Sherrington, 1906). Sherrington’s analogy in his discussion of the map of the motor cortex in his classical text on the nervous system remains quite appropriate as demonstrated by the various viewpoints expressed about the supplementary motor area (SMA) in this text. This area of posterior mesial frontal cortex is implicated in the preparation, initiation and sequencing of movement. However, the same can be said of any part of the cortex, basal ganglia, brainstem or cerebellum associated with motor control. That the SMA is a distinct and clinically interesting part of the brain is clear from the evidence presented but what is not well delineated is its functional significance and even its anatomical distribution in relation to other parts of the motor system. The first half of the book...