

Book Reviews

THE VENTRICLE OF MEMORY. 1989. First Edition. By Macdonald Critchley. Published by Raven Press. 223 pages. \$45 Cdn. approx.

The subtitle of this interesting collection of reminiscences is "Personal Recollections of Some Neurologists". Such carefully chosen words define well the scope of this delightful volume. Readers should not expect to find full or referenced biographies in these pages. However, those who read the 21 short essays will be rewarded by the author's keen insights into the strengths, eccentricities, and contributions (some of them forgotten) of an interesting group of neurologists, neurosurgeons, or neuropsychologists whose memory Critchley has chosen to perpetuate. The writing flows effortlessly and most chapters are sprinkled with appropriate quotations that range from William Shakespeare to Richard Llewellyn.

The author knew and, in one way or another, admired each of the subjects presented in this collection of essays. Thus, most of the essays in this collection are warm tributes that generously preserve the memory and enhance the recognition of a group of individuals who contributed to clinical neurology and neuropsychology during the last 100 years. The selection of subjects is eclectic, reflecting the author's links with the classic period of neurology at the National Hospital, Queen's Square as well as his broader associations with neurologists in Europe and North America who shared his interests in speech and other higher functions of the nervous system. Neurologists will be particularly interested in Critchley's recollections of Adie, Alajouanine, Bender, Cooper, Denny-Brown, Garcin, Kennedy, Leriche, Lhermitte, Monrad-Krohn, and Walshe. Because Critchley has written about them elsewhere, James Collyer, Gordon Holmes, and Kinear Wilson are not the subject of essays in this volume but comments on them appear in relation to several of the chapters. For example, in the chapter on J.S.R. Russell, readers will learn that Holmes insisted on detailed neurological histories and examinations even in patients in whom the diagnosis was obvious from the outset; he did not subscribe to the practice of instantaneous diagnosis of some of his colleagues. One can only speculate about the omission of other Critchley colleagues, some of them his junior; perhaps a subsequent volume will be devoted to such individuals.

What do we learn about the author himself in these reminiscences? To his credit, very little. Although it is clear that he greatly enjoyed the social companionship and intellectual interactions with his subjects, the emphasis is on them rather than himself. Nevertheless, readers are permitted some insights into the thinking of a traditional neurologist and aphasiologist from a time when clinical neurologists were not embarrassed to consider the possible philosophical or sociological implications of neurologic disorders. In the current era that we somewhat arrogantly define as "scientific neurology", younger readers may find it curious that Critchley seems to distinguish rather rigidly between clinical neurologists and scientists. Pendulums of thought and fashion inevitably swing!

Readers who have not memorized long passages of Shakespeare, will have to turn to the epilogue to learn that the title

"The Ventricle of Memory" is from Shakespeare's "Loves Labours Lost". In this, his nonagenarian year, we can only wish Macdonald Critchley the good health that will permit him to delve further into the ventricle of his own memory to produce more of these interesting and insightful reflections on his life and times.

Garth M. Bray
Montréal, Québec

NEUROBIOLOGY OF PANIC DISORDER: FRONTIERS OF CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCE, Volume 8. 1990. Edited by James C. Ballenger. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. 391 pages. \$109 Cdn. approx.

This is a very timely review of an important area of research by the co-editor of *Neurobiology of Mood Disorders* which was the first volume in this series. The 22 essays are divided into eight areas: animal models, preclinical studies, genetics, postulated brain mechanisms for panic anxiety, challenge strategies, anxiety and depression and finally immunology and sleep abnormalities. All essays are written by investigators familiar to those who follow this literature. All 52 authors are at U.S. centres save five (Sandra E. File, U.K.; Vivette Glover, U.K.; J.C. Pecknold, Canada; Meeten Sandler, U.K., and Svenn Tøgersen, Norway).

Patients with panic disorder present frequently to family physicians and many specialist clinics and often see over five physicians before being referred to a psychiatrist. Effective treatment is available by pharmacologic means (e.g. imipramine, clomipramine, alprazolam, phenylzine) and behavioral means (exposure therapy and cognitive therapy).

The differentiation of panic disorder by biological means is very exciting. Interest in this disorder increased tremendously when Donald Klein used imipramine with efficacy to treat anxiety associated with panic attacks in 1981. He called this the second psychopharmacological dissection of anxiety (phenothiazines were the first) and likened the progress to the discovery of different causes of fever. The differential response of anxious patients to phenothiazines and imipramine revealed previously unappreciated biological differences.

Familiar milestones in this differentiation include the panic response to lactate infusion which can be blocked by imipramine and the discovery by PET scanning of an increased cerebral blood flow to the right parahippocampal gyrus in subjects who would later experience panic with lactate infusion. The first MRI study was conducted in Montreal by R. Fontaine et al who reported significant cortical atrophy in panic disorder patients compared to the control group.

Besides citing these and other important findings, some authors give excellent background material which help to review the studies with heightened appreciation and criticism. Three articles stand out in this regard: Preclinical Studies of the Mechanism of Anxiety and its Treatment by Sandra E. File; Psychological Perspectives in Pharmacologic Challenge Testing by M. Katherine Shear, and PET, Panic Disorder and Normal Anticipatory Anxiety by Eric M. Reiman. For example, Dr. File