

Notices and Books

THE MENARINI SERIES ON IMMUNOPATHOLOGY. Second Symposium on Immunopathology of the Central and Peripheral Nervous System. Milan Italy, June 14-16, 1978. Edited by Peter A. Miescher, L. Bolis, S. Gorini, T.A. Lambo, G.J.V. Nossal, G. Torrigiani. Published by Springer-Verlag New York, Inc., 44 Hartz Way, Secaucus, N.J. 380 pages. \$48.00 U.S. 1979.

This symposium was held in Milan in 1978 and consisted of 26 papers on topics related to immunopathological mechanisms in the nervous system. The interested reader will find a considerable amount of useful and well presented information in this volume. There is good balance between experimental detail, review and selected discussion, and the papers include thorough bibliographies.

The title is somewhat misleading insofar as only the paper by Arnason (The immunopathology of idiopathic polyneuritis) directly deals with the peripheral nervous system. Roughly half the symposium is devoted to studies concerned with multiple sclerosis. Certain comments such as "there are two major hypotheses on the etiology of multiple sclerosis and other slow neurologic diseases" (p. 178) might have merited some editing. There are also somewhat more than usual spelling and grammatical errors.

The book goes a decent distance toward "a thorough and extensive review which would serve as a reference for neurologists, internists, immunologists and pathologists" and hopefully further efforts will help to complement that aim in this important area.

P. Averbach, M.D.

EPILEPSIES OF CHILDHOOD. Niall V. O'Donohoe. Published by Butterworths, Woburn, U.S.A. 318 pages. \$42.95.

This is a very readable and instructive book and Dr. O'Donohoe is to be commended for his methodical and lucid approach to a complex subject,

and for including so much relevant information between the covers of this relatively small monograph. Dr. O'Donohoe has adhered to the International classification of the epilepsies; the chapters are well organized and there are excellent sections on epilepsy and sleep, and on the emotional and psychiatric aspects of epilepsy. Each section is followed by a list of references. There is little to criticize in this book; the chapter on febrile convulsions might be considered to be out of date as it does not include a reference to the 1978 provocative paper of Nelson and Ellenberg. Todd's paralysis is presumed to be due to vasospasm (page 59-60) and it might have been useful to discuss the other bases for this post ictal phenomenon.

This book was written primarily for general pediatricians, but I can think of no better introduction to the epilepsies of childhood, and despite its relative cost, would recommend it for the bookshelves of all those interested in the subject.

S.S. Seshia, M.D.

INTERACTION WITHIN THE BRAIN - PITUITARY - ADRENOCORTICAL SYSTEM. M.T. Jones, B. Gillham, M.F. Dallman, S. Chattopadhyay. Published by Academic Press, London, England. Available in U.S. from Academic Press, 111 Fifth Avenue, New York 10003. 1979. 293 pages. \$34.00 U.S.

This book was conceived at the Satellite Symposium of the Vth International Congress in Hormonal Steroids in 1978 and its aim was to provide "reviews of the current concepts of the functional interactions in the brain - pituitary - adrenocortical system in both health and disease". Clearly this is an enormously difficult task but despite 27 contributions by eminent authors the result is somewhat disappointing. Chapters vary considerably in fluency and scope and the completed work lacks cohesion and perspective despite a concluding "overall view" chapter.

The volume is packed with factual

information and more than 700 references, hence it may be a useful reference work for those directly involved in the area. However, its readability and value for those individuals who are conversant, but not expert, in the field would be limited.

E.A. Cowden, M.D.

ANNUAL RESEARCH REVIEWS: PROLACTIN — VOLUME 7. David F. Horrobin. Published by Eden Press, 245 Victoria Avenue #10, Westmount, P Q H3Z 2M6. 125 pages. 1980. \$18.00.

This slim volume is the seventh in a series of such reviews by David Horrobin. It is well written and extensively researched hence provides a clear, concise and stimulating summary of recent key innovations in the field. As stated in the introduction, emphasis is placed particularly on putative and established actions of prolactin and on its regulation and secretion. Thus, there is information not simply on the relationship between prolactin and reproduction and the diagnosis and treatment of prolactinomas but also on less well defined subjects such as the association between prolactin and cancer, fluid and electrolyte balance, mental illness, the adrenal cortex and the thyroid. There are more than 500 references cited.

The volume would be useful not just to the basic researcher but also to the increasing number of physicians and surgeons who encounter patients with deranged prolactin metabolism.

E.A. Cowden, M.D.

TOPICS IN NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY. Edited by H.S. Thompson. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore. 1979. 377 pages. \$43.50 U.S.

By reviewing five major topics in neuro-ophthalmology, this book provides clinicians with an up-date on the neurology of vision. It is the product of a workshop in neuro-ophthalmology at the University of Iowa in 1977. The five topics are perimetry, the pupil, pathophysiology of optic nerve disease,