

## 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 There is little to criticize in this book; the chapter on febrile convulsions might be considered to be out of date as it does not include a reference to the 1978 provocative paper of Nelson and Ellenberg.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 - ADRENO-CORTICAL 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,

eye movements and C.T. scanning. The section on perimetry is an informative critique and rationale of modern kinetic and static visual field techniques. This section is particularly rewarding to the neurologist or neurosurgeon who is unfamiliar with modern perimetry, but must interpret Goldman fields performed by neurologically naive ophthalmologists or technicians. Refreshing challenges to old dogmas are made; purely bitemporal field defects are the exception in chiasmal compression; incongruous homonymous field defects and congruous homonymous sector defects may signify damage to the geniculate body rather than the optic radiation.

The section on the pupil features a review of tonic pupils, what causes them and how to recognize them. Thereafter the section is a rehash of material recently published elsewhere. Next, four authorities survey experimental studies of the role of axoplasmic flow in the genesis of optic disc oedema. A chapter on experimental optic atrophy indicates that optic axons show simultaneous retrograde degeneration all along their course after nerve section. Failed retrograde axonal transport of an axonal messenger may signal death of the ganglion cell. The mechanisms of neuronal death and lack of regeneration can be studied in the optic nerve, as no where else in the brain. A discussion of the comparative merits of visual evoked potentials, contrast sensitivity testing, and double flash perception in multiple sclerosis concludes the section.

The section about eye movements concentrates on the neurophysiology of saccades and their disorders. Additional discussion of the pursuit and vestibulo-ocular systems would have been appropriate. Pertinent material in an heuristic chapter on nystagmus is presented more thoroughly by the same authors in another book. A valuable dissertation on clinical applications of ocular motor models highlights the section. The book concludes with five, nicely illustrated, brief chapters on C.T. scanning. Unfortunately for neuroscientists, the C.T. scan section is practically confined to the orbit. This book warrants the attention of interested neurologists

and neurosurgeons. It is a concise, yet comprehensive, summary of recent trends.

James A. Sharpe, M.D.

### **Health Computer Guide Now Available.**

The Health Computer Information Bureau's 1980 reference guide is now available. The Bureau, located in Ottawa, consolidates information related to health computing and acts as a resource centre and consulting service to health professionals.

Their 1980 reference guide, *Health Computer Applications in Canada*, contains over 250 pages of information valuable to any health facility.

"The guide gives present users ideas on how to get maximum mileage out of their investment", says Bureau Director Marjorie Hayes, "while it can help those about to purchase a computer make the right decision". Its purpose is to save health facilities time and money by putting as much information about health computing in Canada in one handy reference guide."

Its four sections give users the latest information on who's who in health computing, listing hundreds of health professionals who use computers in their everyday work. Various software companies and their capabilities are included along with a variety of articles on computer usage such as applying a business computer in a medical reference laboratory.

The guide also details the hardware and software packages now being used by health professionals and comprehensively details over 350 accounts of individuals across the country getting maximum mileage out of their computers.

The Health Computer Information Bureau is sponsored by the Canadian Hospital Association, Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Organization for Advancement of Computers in Health.

The Bureau's newest reference guide, its 6th edition, is available for \$50 in Canada and \$65 outside the country and can be obtained from the Bureau at 410 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 800, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7T6.

## **Books Received**

**ANNUAL RESEARCH REVIEWS: SUBSTANCE P — VOLUME 2.** Petr Skrabanek and David Powell, published by Eden Press, 245 Victoria Avenue #10, Westmount, PQ H3Z 2M6 April 1980. 176 pages. \$32.00.

**ANNUAL RESEARCH REVIEWS: RENIN — VOLUME 4.** Suzanne Oparil, Richard Katholi and Sherry Winternitz, published by Eden Press, 245 Victoria Avenue #10, Westmount, P Q H3Z 2M6, April 1980. 281 pages. \$32.00.

**ANNUAL RESEARCH REVIEWS: ANTIDIURETIC HORMONE — VOLUME 4.** Mary L. Forsling, published by Eden Press, 245 Victoria Avenue #10, Westmount, PQ H3Z 2M6, April 1980. 165 pages. \$26.00.

**TEXTBOOK OF CHILD NEUROLOGY — 2ND EDITION.** John H. Menkes MD, published by Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, available in Canada from: MacMillan of Canada/Maclean-Hunter Press, Medical Division, 70 Bond Street, Toronto, Ontario M5B 1X3, 1980. 695 pages. \$47.50.

**REVIEW OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE: A Self-Assessment Manual.** Edited by Lloyd H. Smith Jr. and James B. Wyngaarden, published by W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, London, Toronto, available in Canada from W.B. Saunders Co. Canada Ltd., One Goldthorne Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 5T9, 1980. 330 pages.

**BIOLOGICAL STUDIES OF MENTAL PROCESSES.** Edited by David Caplan, published by MIT Press, Cambridge-Mass, and London-England, 1980. 335 pages. \$24.95 U.S.

---

### **ERROR**

The paper of L.R. Lapointe, J. Lamarche, A. Solloum and R. Beaudry in Volume 7, No. 2, May 1980, page 163 showed illustrations 2B and 2C with the legends reversed.

---