

Notices and Books

ANTICONVULSANT THERAPY — 2ND EDITION. Pharmacological Basis and Practice, by Mervyn J. Eadie and John H. Tyrer, published by Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, New York, available in Canada from Academic Press Canada, Don Mills, Ontario, 1980. 338 pages. \$53.15 Canadian funds.

The rapidity of advances in this field inevitably required the appearance of the second edition five years later. Eadie and Tyrer have revised and expanded much of the material and added new illustrations.

The book is divided into three unequal parts. The first five chapters are short, succinct and contain many useful points. Principles of treatment of epilepsy; basic concepts of clinical pharmacology; techniques of measurements with emphasis on gas liquid chromatography, but enzyme-immune assays particularly EMIT (Enzyme Multiplied Immune Test) are also covered. Unlike the first edition no details of individual assays are given, but up-to-date references for those requiring more details are added.

The second section details the principles of anticonvulsants in nine chapters with emphasis on commonly used drugs, but other drugs in use are not excluded. Only one reference with no critical analysis (page 157) of the teratogenic effects of Tegretol is given. The hepatic side effects of Valproic Acid are omitted, granted that life threatening complications are uncommon. Valproic Acid has been used with increasing frequency in the treatment of absence seizures and its use (page 298) is only mentioned in passing.

The International League's Classification (Gastaut 1969) and the treatment of various types of epilepsy comprise the major portion of the final section.

This book which is "intended primarily for clinicians who treat epileptic patients" does not mention the treatment of benign rolandic epilepsy. The incidence of the latter is 4 - 7 times as common as absence

seizures. Status epilepticus which commonly presents to the non-neurologist should also have been defined and a logical system of investigations outlined in more detail. The pharmacokinetic parameters, therapeutic ranges and average doses of the commonly used anticonvulsants are summarized in two tables at the end.

For the epileptologist, the book has little to offer. The price is certainly not modest. However, such deficiencies as exist are not crucial to the message of the book and should not preclude taking advantage of the present updated edition.

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CURRENT TOPICS IN NERVE AND MUSCLE RESEARCH. Selected Papers of the Symposia Held at the IVth International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases, Montreal, Canada, September 17 - 21, 1978. Edited by A.J. Aguayo and G. Karpati, published by Excerpta Medica — Amsterdam, Oxford, distributed in Canada and US by the Elsevier-North Holland, Inc, New York, 1979. 327 pages. \$58.50 US funds.

This book contains most of the papers presented in the symposia of the IVth International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases held in Montreal, Sept. 1978.

The IVth congress was the first in this series to officially include "nerves". It was the largest of the four international congresses, but the published proceedings book is the smallest, because it has been limited to the invited papers presented in the symposia. Naturally this resulted in a more uniform quality of the papers printed, because these papers were written by leaders of the respective fields. However, one misses the occasional small gem, from less well known scientists, such as were found in proceedings of the previous international muscle congresses. Interestingly, this book contains no contributions from Canada, although the congress was held in Montreal.

The papers are mainly reviews. However, one must recognize that these cannot cover the very large fields of present research on muscle and nerve. E.g., the symposium on 'Metabolic Aspects of Muscle' was limited to 'protein degradation', 'cyclic nucleotides' and 'the role of calcium' in physiological and pathological conditions. Although many of the neuromuscular diseases are genetically determined the book contains nothing on genetics or on molecular biology.

Considerable space is given to 'Acetylcholine Receptors and Myasthenia Gravis', and deservedly so, because this area probably has seen the most solid advances in recent neuromuscular research.

The editors were primarily responsible for an excellent organization of the IVth International Congress and they are to be commended for the rapid publication of this book. It would be of special interest to the many participants of the Congress as well as to neurologist, wanting to get a current view on the above topics as well as membrane structure and muscle disease, developmental disorders of muscle or, e.g. toxic disorders of nerve. However, at over \$70.00 in Canadian funds most scientists will probably consult this book in their library rather than adding it to their own collection.

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Books Received

ANALGESIC DRUGS. by J. Parkhouse, B.J. Pleuvry, J.M.H. Rees, published by Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne, available in Canada from Blackwell Mosby Book Distributors, 86 Northline Road, Toronto, Ontario, M4B 3E5, 1979. 159 pages. \$21.00 Canadian funds.

NEUROLOGY — VOLUME 5. of the Science and Practice of Clinical Medicine, John M. Dietschy — Editor-in-Chief, edited by Roger N. Rosenberg, published by Grune &