the initial chapters comparison is made between the acute pharmacology of anti-depressant drugs and the chronic adaptive changes that occur on repeated administration of such compounds, as they are used clinically. It is evident from these chapters that research has not centered on any one neurochemical mechanism, in contrast to antipsychotic drugs, but a wide variety of neuronal systems appear to be involved in the actions of such compounds. This may be the secret of the advances made in the anti-depressant field. More recently, the use of radioactive labelled anti-depressant drugs such as ³H-imipramine, ³H-des methylimipramine and ³H-mianserin has been allowed more close examination of the sites of drug action in brain and some of this recent data is summarised in the chapter by Peroutka and Snyder. It is unfortunate that more recent and detailed studies by Langre and Briley were not included. This book contains four chapters on techniques for the detection of anti-depressant activity in animals. It cannot be easy to provide models which simulate the complexity of human depression but from the number of drugs presently available, these models must meet with some success. The clinical content of the book in contrast to its basic science chapters is relatively limited. There are only two chapters which deal directly with the use of drugs in man, one dealing specifically with lithium, the other dealing with the complex association between plasma levels of tricyclic anti-depressants and their clinical effect. Perhaps greater coverage could have been given to this interesting topic but in a volume of this size it is difficult to envisage how the editors could have reached a more realistic balance. The last chapter by Shopsin and colleagues is concerned with the second generation of anti-depressant compounds and highlights the broad approach taken to the development of new anti-depressant drugs. The controversy over sites of action of anti-depressant compounds and their mechanism of action in the treatment of depression has resulted in no common hypothesis of underlying cause of depressive illness and perhaps this has ensured that a broad therapeutic approach to treating depression has to be taken. The editors have assembled an interesting multi-authored volume which will mainly be of interest to those working at the basic science level but which should provide clinical researchers and clinicians with an up-date on current concepts of anti-depressant action.

PG JENNER

Atlas of Pediatric Electroencephalography. By Warren T Blume. (Pp 400; \$115.60.) Raven Press; New York, 1982.

This substantial atlas of about 31 × 39 cm and weighing 2½ kg is very nicely presented and beautifully printed. In each chapter there are a few pages describing the views of various authors with selected references and a large number of full size EEG illustrations. The figures are good even if the legends are rather limited.

In the first chapter on "Normal EEG" there are 126 illustrations covering "normal awake" and "normal drowsiness, sleep and arousal". It is not stated whether each EEG had been chosen from normal control subjects or, instead, collected amongst babies and children referred for an EEG but considered by the author as having no EEG abnormalities. The second alternative would justify the latitude of the author's criteria of normality: see fig 58 with asymmetry during hyperventilation; and fig 31 and 32 with 3 per second waves (instead of the alpha rhythm) in a child of 4 years. The author is quite right when he emphasises that "confidence in identifying minor abnormality (in the EEG) can be built only upon a thorough appreciation of the limits of normality". However, this statement is weakened when the author immediately adds that "these limits are considerably wider for children and adolescents than for adults".

The second chapter devoted to "Abnormal EEGs: Epileptiform Potentials" is rather lightly discussed in 7½ pages with 21 references. At times, the term seizure (which should represent the clinically detectable event) is applied to the presence of particular EEG features (see fig 237). The third chapter devoted to "Abnormal EEG: Non Epileptiform Potentials" covers only 1¼ pages with 15 references. The clinical events are barely mentioned and often there is no information on proven diagnoses. The fourth chapter on "The Role of EEG in some common Paediatric Neurological Problems" defines "Febrile Convulsions" as motor seizures occurring with a temperature of at least 39 °C which has been present less than 24 hours. He adds that "a focal seizure does not fall under this definition", and that the febrile seizure should last less than 15 minutes. Many papers dealing with febrile convulsions are not mentioned in the references, including the book by Lennox-Buchthal. Other conditions such as syncope, headache, Reye's Syndrome, encephalitis and meningitis, prognosis

after cardio-respiratory arrest, trauma, degenerative diseases, cerebral palsy, are briefly discussed without any illustrations. Some "aspects of recording technique" (with the collaboration of Donna Gregory) are added (3 pages with 2 references) as a separate chapter; a subject index covering 6 pages completes the book.

Weak points are easily found in any publication and perhaps when Dr Blume prepares a second edition, a fuller selection of references should be attempted; the clinical implications of some of the EEG findings should be enlarged with appropriate differential diagnostic comments. Criteria of normality should be presented more systematically bearing in mind that the views of many authors and their technicalities tend to differ (electrode placements, montage, paper speed, time constant, gain). Terminology in the description of some of the EEGs could be improved.

Some rather dogmatic statements seem difficult to justify. "The main role of the parents is to provide an accurate neurological history for the technologists; this history is a valuable supplement to the requisition form". This statement suggests that the medical doctor responsible for the EEG report is not present during the test! On the same page it is also stated that "we seldom invite the parents to remain in the recording room during the procedure", (surely an out-moded attitude). On page 329 it is said that "photic stimulation has limited direct usefulness below the age of 5 years" (why?). "A crowded appointment schedule is incompatible with technically satisfactory paediatric EEGs; the child will sense the technologists hurry and the battle will rage"! The concept may be correct but seems to lack any element of TLC (tender loving care).

Over the last few years much interest has developed on the importance of electroencephalography in paediatrics and several EEG atlases have been published. In the first 3 months of 1982 two further atlases have just emerged (this one from Canada and also an excellent one from France) with somewhat different trends, and should be perused by paediatricians, neurologists, neurosurgeons, psychiatrists and others interested in clinical neurophysiology, and particularly electroencephalography.

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