

PRE AND POSTSYNAPTIC RECEPTORS Edited by E. Usdin and W. E. Bunney, Jr. (Pp. 337; illustrated; \$29.75.) Marcell Dekker: New York. 1975.

This book presents a recent account of research techniques and current theories on the biochemical, pharmacological, and neurophysiological aspects of pre- and postsynaptic neuronal neurotransmitter mechanisms. The overall presentation is good, notably the scientific content, reference sections terminating each chapter and a concise subject index. However, the presentation of the tables and figures is occasionally spoiled by lengthy legends.

The book is primarily concerned with dopaminergic neurotransmitter mechanisms, particularly receptor-ligand binding and subsequent role in 'feed-back' mechanisms. However, the book is somewhat incomplete in that cholinergic receptor mechanisms have been omitted from the text. Nevertheless, with the current interest in catecholamine neurotransmitters and their purported involvement with neuronal metabolic homeostasis, the mechanistic approach of the book should appeal to the postgraduate biochemist, pharmacologist, and neurophysiologist.

The applied clinical content of the book is very interesting, especially with respect to the mode and site of action of psychotic drugs. Of particular interest is the use of physiological and biochemical preparations in the initial assessment of drug interaction with axodendritic and axosomatic 'receptors' and the possible implications in clinical management. The latter aspects of the book should attract the attention of clinicians and medical students interested in drug interaction, and 'feed-back' mechanisms in the central and autonomic nervous system.

D. REES

INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE 2 PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE Edited by N. Lundberg, U. Ponten, and M. Brock. (Pp. 527; DM 72; \$31.00.) Springer: Berlin. 1975.

Symposia centred on a particular technique or measurement can often result in a more cohesive multidisciplinary meeting than those set up with the avowed intention of bringing together different disciplines. This has been a feature of the cerebral blood flow meetings in recent years, and interest in intracranial pressure seems to be providing a similar rallying point for both basic and clinical scientists. This book reports the 2nd International Symposium, held in Lund last summer. Its appearance, between hard covers, well under a year after the meeting, is due to having used offset printing of typed pages; this is to be commended to future organisers of such

symposia. Each section has an introduction by the chairman of the session, who includes comments on relevant points raised in the discussion, which is not reported verbatim. There is a great deal of new work briefly reported here, with good line diagrams and references. With over 100 papers, titles cannot usefully be mentioned here, but the main topics included CSF dynamics, pathogenesis of hydrocephalus, distribution of pressures within the intracranial cavity, interaction between ICP and respiration, cerebrovascular function, cerebral blood flow, metabolism. Many of these papers referred to experimental work, but there were clinical papers on volume-pressure responses, on the influence of anaesthetic and other drugs and on the controversial issue of long-term controlled ventilation. A final session reviewed the present place of intracranial pressure monitoring in clinical management.

BRYAN JENNETT

ATLAS OF NORMAL VERTEBRAL ANGIOGRAMS By P. Ross and G. H. du Boulay. (Pp. 126; illustrated; £15.) Butterworths: London. 1976.

Small expanding lesions in the posterior fossa can be localised by vertebral angiography without recourse to encephalography, but recognition of the displacements requires a knowledge of the normal anatomy and common variants. In this slim volume the first 26 pages consist of descriptive text, references, and nine full-page perspective drawings. The remaining 98 pages are life-size subtraction prints of vertebral angiograms in which the vessels are identified by numbers. The key to these annotations is contained in two coloured fold-out sections, one at the beginning for arteries in red, and the other at the end for veins in blue, an arrangement which was found to be very practical. Computed tomography may reduce the need for vertebral angiography but is unlikely to eliminate it entirely; therefore radiologists and others interested in interpretation should have this book readily available.

J. L. STEVEN

HANDBOOK OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY Vol. 15: THE EPILEPSIES Edited by O. Magnus and A. M. Lorentz de Haas. (Pp. 860; illustrated; Dfl. 255.00.) North Holland: Amsterdam. 1974.

As would be expected in a prestige book written by well-known authorities, this volume contains some excellent studies on the epilepsies. Its main defect is the attempt to be comprehensive, including all attempts at classification. There is something to be said for each, but for practical purposes it is best to accept one classification, and construct a book around it. This is difficult to achieve with a panel of experts, and the editorial task was made more