

Effect of Carotid Artery Surgery in Cerebral Blood Flow By Bryan Jennett, J. W. Miller, and A. M. Harper. (Pp. 170; illustrated; £20.50, \$29.95.) Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam and New York. 1977.

This little book summarises the work done under the aegis of the cerebral circulation research group of the Medical Research Council in the University of Glasgow on problems associated with carotid ligation. In addition to the original work of the group, it abstracts the background literature on the subject of carotid ligation, it includes a chapter on human and animal circulation, on cerebral vascular physiology, and on measurement of cerebral blood flow. These chapters, as one might expect from a group of such international standing, are thorough, authoritative, and well written. The report of clinical studies on 100 patients with intracranial aneurysm is unique in many respects since it is unlikely that such an extensive trial of carotid ligation will ever again be performed with such careful measurements of stump pressure and cerebral blood flow (cbf). The correlations between angiographic abnormality and the two measurements of stump pressure and cbf, and between cbf and clinical results are of great interest to neurosurgeons. It is in the chapters on a place of carotid ligation in contemporary neurosurgeons that the authors' special pleading or at least, particular advocacy is most clearly apparent. Here the authors themselves point out that a fair comparison between this and any other aneurysm series is bedevilled by the persistent inhomogeneity in data presentation which characterises the field. They, however, posted their own figures, a 6% ischaemia rate with 4% mortality in a series of 67 ligation cases, and there are a few who will quibble about the excellence of these results.

The chapter on experimental investigations in primates summarises work from this group and perhaps in the context of the general clinical orientation of the monograph is adequate. In this reviewer's view, it could with profit have been expanded, and it seems a shame, for example, that the original work of Kindt and Youmans on adaptive capacity is omitted altogether.

The book closes with a summary of current work on blood flow measurements in relation to endarterectomy.

This is a thoroughly enjoyable little book which uses a current clinical problem to present a good deal of basic information on cerebral circulation in a highly readable form. The lists of references are excellent and the book can be read with profit by experimental physiologists and neurosurgical trainees. Alas, at a price of £20.50 it seems likely that few will be willing to afford it.

LINDSAY SYMON

Methods in Receptor Research, Part II Methods in Molecular Biology Volume 9 Edited by Melvin Blecher. (Pp. 383; illustrated; Sw fr. 190.) Marcel Dekker: New York and Basel. 1976.

There may be few readers of this Journal requiring detailed instructions on methods of isolation and characterisation of synaptic receptors. For them, these two volumes are essential. Critical review could only be given by research workers on each synapse, but those I have spoken to welcome the appropriate chapters and this note is to bring the books to the notice of those interested.

J. A. SIMPSON

Sémiologie Psychiatrique By Paul Bernard and Simone Trouvé. (Pp. 259; illustrated; price not stated.) Masson: Paris. 1977.

This is a book on symptoms and signs in psychiatric disorder. In nine chapters it deals with the descriptive psychopathology of feeding, sphincteric activity, sexual behaviour, sleep, aggression, suicide, body image and hypochondriasis, language, delusions, and hallucinations. Other topics are to follow in a further volume. The phenomena are placed in the appropriate context—developmental, physiological, sociological, ethological, or psychodynamic, as the case may be. Each chapter ends with a short bibliography, mostly but not exclusively in the French language.

The approach is valuable in its comprehensive scope. The book reads well and easily, in contrast to the tedium which unfortunately characterises so

many texts on phenomenology, a subject of great fascination in clinical practice. Unfortunately the virtue of comprehensiveness carries the faults of superficiality and unevenness in this comparatively short book. Some important new developments, most notably the studies of Aggernaes on hallucinations, are not included.

The book can be recommended to those who are fluent in French and young in psychiatry. For others who are interested in the subject matter, the books already available in English are more useful and more informative.

L. K. HEMSI

Drug Misuse—Human Abuse By Helen I. Green and Michael H. Levy. (Pp. 584; Swfr.68.) Marcel Dekker: New York. 1976.

The only amendment to the United States Constitution that has ever been repealed was the prohibition clause. This comprehensive and stimulating book examines in a journalistic style the completely permissive attitude of our society to alcohol, caffeine, and nicotine, and the epidemic of illegal drug misuse in which Wall Street stock brokers chew amphetamines with morning coffee, American housewives regulate the day with uppers and downers, and a high proportion of American schoolchildren misuse powerful drugs. This compendium of clinical descriptions, legal advice (how to get a bail bond), and detailed pharmacology, is full of facts. Thus we learn that marijuana has been known by the following terms: the heavenly guide, poor man's heaven, smoother of grief, unconquered, hero-leaved, light hearts' joy, the rejoicer, victoribus, desired in three worlds, pills of gaiety, sky flier, and fancy's leaf. This is followed by a detailed critique of the harmful effects of marijuana. The problems of drug abuse in the USA and UK are different. This is primarily a reference work for American parents and teachers, but those who deal with drug abuse in any country will gain from reading it. Two minor criticisms—antipsychotic drugs get scant attention, and the book has no index, although is well sectioned. Highly recommended.

DAVID PARKES