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THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE welcomes original papers, which should be addressed to the Editor, Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Papers are accepted on the understanding that the subject matter has not been and will not be published in any other journal. Papers should deal with original matter and the discussion should be closely relevant to this. Manuscripts should be typewritten in double spacing on one side of the paper only. Three copies (including figures and tables) should be submitted of which only one need be a top copy. A summary of about 50 words should appear at the beginning of each paper. The name(s) of the hospital or laboratory should also appear. Full postal address for correspondence and reprints should be supplied. Receipt of manuscripts will be acknowledged.

The Editor will welcome Short Reports or Preliminary Communications limited to about 1000 words and with no more than one figure and one table. Also welcome are Letters to the Editor.

**ETHICS** Ethical considerations will be taken into account in the assessment of papers (see the Medical Research Council's publications on the ethics of human experimentation, and the World Medical Association's code of ethics, known as the Declaration of Helsinki (see *British Medical Journal* 1964; 2:177)).

**ABBREVIATIONS** Measurements should be expressed in SI units (see *Journal of Clinical Pathology* 1974; 27: 590-7; *British Medical Journal* 1974; 4:490; *International System of Units* 1972. National Bureau of Standards, Special Publication 330. United States Bureau of Printing: Washington). For recognised abbreviations see *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry* 1975; 38:1-5; and *Units, Symbols and Abbreviations*, Third Edition 1977, edited by D N Baron, Royal Society of Medicine: London.

**ILLUSTRATIONS** *Photographs* Unmounted photographs on glossy paper should be provided together with magnification scales when appropriate. *Diagrams* will be reduced to 2½ inches (68 mm) wide, occasionally to 5½ inches (145 mm). Lettering should be in either Letraset or stencil and care should be taken that lettering and symbols are of comparable size. Illustrations should not be inserted in the text. They should be marked on the back with figure numbers, title of paper, and name of author. All photographs, graphs and diagrams should be referred to as figures and should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals. The legends for illustrations should be typed on a separate sheet. *Tables* should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals and each typed on a separate sheet. The format used in this issue of the Journal should be noted. Vertical lines will not be printed and usually there are only three horizontal lines in each table.

REFERENCES should be in the Vancouver style as in this issue. They should appear in the text by number only in the order in which they occur and should be listed on a separate sheet in the same order. Punctuation must be correct and journal titles should be in full or abbreviated in accordance with the *Index Medicus*. Thus:

Millikan CH, Eaton LH. Clinical evaluation of ACTH and cortisone in myasthenia gravis. *Neurology (Minneapolis)* 1951; 1:145-52.

Penn AS. Immunological features of myasthenia gravis. In: Aguayo AJ and Karpati G, eds. *Topics in Nerve and Muscle Research*. Amsterdam: *Excerpta Medica* 1975: 123-32.

Coers C, Woolf AL. *The innervation of muscle. A biopsy study*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1951: 16-24.

A reference to unpublished work should not appear in the list but work "in press" may be included provided the name of the journal appears. The author is responsible for the accuracy of references.

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## Book reviews

**Neurotransmitters, Receptors and Drug Action** Edited by Walter B Essman (pp 209; £17.95) Lancaster: MTP Press Ltd, 1980.

To compile a volume dealing with any aspect of neurotransmitter receptor function within the brain should deter most authors. The concepts governing this field change so rapidly that any book on the subject is by definition out of date before publication. Indeed, *Neurotransmitters, Receptors and Drug Action* has suffered this fate. References quoted seldom are later than 1978 and the ideas put forward, although then current, at times seem to be from the distant past. No blame for this can be attributed to either the editor or authors, rather the long delays suffered by many of us through the process of publication itself must be considered responsible. The volume also contains some strange bedfellows. Chapters deal with a variety of neurotransmitters—acetylcholine, noradrenaline, dopamine, 5HT, GABA and histamine—but each is examined from the particular viewpoint of the individual authors such that the contents do not blend to produce a homogenous work. This might explain the need for the all embracing title used for the volume. Overall, therefore, this is not a book to be recommended for a current view of neurotransmitter receptor function within the brain. At almost £18 I would be surprised if many found it to be of use. Perhaps others contemplating similar volumes would be advised to wait until the instability of receptor theory lessens and the speed of publication improves.

P JENNER

**The Spinal Cord and Its Reaction to Traumatic Injury** Edited by William F Windle (pp 368; SFr 95) New York: Marcel Dekker Inc, 1980.

This book has 16 authors, although it is not the result of a symposium. Chapter 1 is on history. Chapters 2 to 7 are on anatomy and embryology, chapters 8 to 12 on physiology, chiefly microphysiology of the cat, and chapters 13 to 18 on experimental pathology. Chapter 20 is on general pathology, and chapter 19 on early surgical interven-

tion, as practised in the USA, in the management of spinal injuries.

Some chapters review the whole of a natural topic, but some are narrow accounts of the author's research and its immediate background. Human spinal tracts are presented in chapter 5 as if nothing new had been discovered about them since 1938. A whole chapter is devoted to the distribution of GABA-ergic neurones in the rat's spinal cord, but chemical transmitters other than GABA are neglected; noradrenaline is mentioned solely in a context of experimental pathology, and acetylcholine gets no mention at all. I enjoyed Chapter 4, which is an economically written 10-page summary of Dommissé's monograph on the blood supply of the cord, and chapter 17, in which Kao soberly and clearly describes his work on bridging the transected spinal cord with sciatic nerve graft. That such a graft gets invaded by CNS axons is well established and independently confirmed; what happens later remains obscure. This is a patchy book, good in parts, but not one that will greatly help the clinician who deals with spinal injuries.

GS BRINDLEY

**Adaptation et restauration des fonctions nerveuses** By Marc Jeannerod and Henri Hecae (pp 323; unpriced) Villeurbanne: SIMEP, 1979.

The best way to sum up this book would be to say that if it were in English it would be excellent. Alas, it is in French and I could not recommend it to anyone other than a fluent francophone.

The work itself is a comprehensive and scholarly review comprising 323 pages of closely typed text and listing over 1500 references, the most recent being dated 1978. The subject matter is in two parts. The first deals with the adaptability of the nervous system both in animals and humans. The chapter headings are historical review, sensory deprivation, peripheral motor system, deafferentation, vestibulo-ocular reflex, motor coordination and neuronal basis of learning. The second and larger part of the book deals with the recovery of function after a cerebral lesion in animals and man. The main headings are factors affecting outcome, restoration of visual function, recovery of motor func-

## Book reviews, Correction and Notices

tions, return of language and the anatomical and physiological basis of recovery.

ALAN WHITELEY

## Correction

"A technique for anodally blocking large nerve fibres through chronically implanted electrodes" by GS Brindley and MD Craggs, Vol 43, pp 1083-90. Owing to a printers error the legend to fig 1 in this article was incorrect. The original legend read "Implanted electrodes: each implanted electrode-mount consists of a silicone-rubber body with two pairs of parallel channels closed at the top by means of silicone rubber flaps. Each channel of the rostral pair contains three symmetrically placed platinum electrodes (a-b-c), and each channel of the caudal pair contains three asymmetrically placed electrodes (d-e-f). The outer electrodes of each set of three are usually connected together as a common anode. Contact with the electrodes is made through helically wound cables. The nearer channel is ready to receive a nerve whilst the other is shown occupied."

In addition, the lettering to the right of the first trace of figure 6A should have read 0.1 ms, not 0.1 mA as printed.

## Notices

**International Meeting of Neurological Sciences.** This will be held in Bombay, India, 28-30 September 1981. Information may be obtained from Professor Manik Shahani, ECI Institute of Electrophysiology, Dr E Borges Marg, Parel, Bombay 400 012, India.

**The Volvo Awards for low back pain research.** The Volvo Company of Göteborg, Sweden is offering three prizes of US\$3000 each for papers submitted on: (1) Clinical studies, (2) Bioengineering studies, or (3) Studies in other basic science areas. Details are available from: Professor Alf Nachemson, Sahlgren Hospital, S-413 45, Göteborg, Sweden.

## **Announcement**

It has been brought to our attention that an advertisement titled "Cellolite Surgical Sponges" placed by us in the January and February issues of this journal might cast doubt upon the safety of a product called "Macrom Neurosurgical Patties" manufactured by Macarthys Surgical Limited.

We wish to make it clear that so far as we are aware Macrom Neurosurgical Patties present no physical or toxicological hazard to brain tissues and that it was never our intention to claim otherwise. We apologise to Macarthys Surgical Limited if there was any inference or suggestion in the advertisement to the opposite effect.

Smith and Nephew Medical Limited, Woodlands Road, Birmingham.

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ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL, QUEEN SQUARE, AND THE  
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The Institute offers postgraduate training in the various neurological disciplines, as well as running whole-time 10 week courses of instruction during the Autumn, Winter and Spring terms. Fee and further details available on application to the Administrative Officer, Institute of Neurology.

Application should be made to the Dean at the Institute, Dr. P. C. GAUTIER-SMITH