
This weighty tome, the proceedings of a 1980 Berlin Symposium, is well produced and liberally illustrated with figures and there are many tables of data. The contributors are well known, particularly in the field of the effect of psychotropic drugs on the EEG. Of special value is the preamble in English and German setting out requirements for drug studies, and the closing remarks which indicate the value and limitations of EEG in the field of clinical pharmacology. In spite of controversy, and the introduction of scanning techniques of various types, the EEG remains one of the tools to study, for example in relation to vigilance. With the newer computerised analysis methods it is certainly not an area to be neglected. For the reader this book serves as a valuable reference on the effects on benzodiazepines and lithium. There is also a chapter describing the effect of yohimbine in the computerised EEG. The contributors present the problem of quantification in all its aspects and though the general reader may not find this a bedside book, there is a vast amount of information and references available here, if at a price.

DF SCOTT


This is a collection of thirteen chapters on diverse topics of interest to all concerned with the laboratory aspects of diseases of the nervous system. Cytochemistry includes Ingrid Allen’s review of hydrolytic enzyme abnormalities and their possible significance in the pathogenesis of multiple sclerosis; a succinct and authoritative discussion of glial fibrillary acidic protein by Eng and DeArmond; and a well documented account by Pearson of the localisation of neurotransmitters (including the neuropeptides) by immunocytochemical methods. Pearson gives details of technical methods for which many readers will be grateful. Other chapters include Hirano’s well illustrated thoughts on the periaxial space and its pathology; a review of mainly experimental work on measles virus in the CNS (from the NIH laboratories); Wisniewski et al on the electron microscopy of neurofibrillary tangles and amyloid fibrils; a review of the EM of pituitary adenomas (Roy); paraganglioma (Llena) and an exhaustive review by Oehmichen on inflammatory cells in the CNS. I found the chapter by Tateishi et al on Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in Japan and its experimental transmission to rodents particularly interesting, pointing perhaps to differences between Japanese and European forms of the disease. Vogel’s little chapter is a gem. The standard of writing, general presentation and illustrations, light and EM, is uniformly high throughout. Strongly recommended.

LW DUCHEN

The Primary Care of Seizure Disorders. By Hugh B McIntyre. (pp 201; £25.00) Kent: Butterworth Group, 1983.

This short and very readable book can be very highly recommended to all physicians and surgeons concerned with the management of patients with epilepsy. It can also be read with profit and understanding by medical students and paramedical personnel concerned with people with epilepsy. It is written by several members of the staff of the Los Angeles County Harbor General Hospital, UCLA Medical Center, yet its style is remarkably uniform. It is full of relevant and important points and deals with many aspects of the disorder—epidemiology, clinical features, genetics, EEG, therapy, emergency treatment and psychiatric problems. A short medico-legal section should be of interest even to doctors outside the USA. In certain states the physician concerned with the patient is responsible for reporting the condition to the appropriate licensing authority, in others this is left to the patient. In some states a hearing is then held at which medical details of the patients are assessed and at some depth to decide on “driving privileges” and these may be restricted to certain hours of the day and the amount of driving permitted in a given period and other specific conditions may be laid down, as opposed to the all or none judgement practised in the UK.

The book contains up to date references with a surprisingly large number of papers from British and some European journals included.

RS KOCEN