
This book is intended as a student text in behavioural pharmacology. Introductory chapters on principles of pharmacology, neuron cytology, neurophysiology, and synaptic structure and function, are concise, clearly illustrated, well referenced, and provide a useful introduction for students in any field of neuropsychopharmacology. The chapters on principles of behavioural pharmacology, however, with its harrowing descriptions of the muricide test for antidepressants, and the acetic acid writhing test for analgesics, sets the psychopharmacological tone for the rest of the book.

The core of this volume is organised into different chapters on acetyl choline, catecholamines, serotonin, amino acid transmitters, peptides, anxiolytic drugs, and the opiates, with an additional chapter on the treatment of schizophrenia and the affective disorders. Each of these chapters is again well produced, with illustrations of chemical formulae of drugs and of metabolic transformations. The organisation within chapters seems at first glance rather chaotic; if studiously followed, I am sure they are excellent, but as a rapid reference source they are confusing. The abbreviations list at the end includes C for carbon, little g for gram, but not ICS (for intracranial self-stimulation), which irritates. A huge store of references is gathered together at the end of the book, but also at the end of each chapter appear recommended readings with a one-line appreciation of the nature of each review.

Behavioural pharmacologists in training will doubtless find this a useful and comprehensive account of their subject; others in the field of neuropsychopharmacology will be pleasantly surprised to find in it a wealth of useful information, albeit organised along unfamiliar lines. "Non-behavioural" neuropharmacologists will probably not purchase this book, although by today's standards it is fairly priced and very well produced. However, they may well bless their library for having a copy in their hour of need.

NP QUINN


It is probable that all present knowledge of the Dandy-Walker syndrome is contained in this excellent little monograph. Unfortunately, (in this reviewer's opinion) few neurosurgeons and even fewer neurologists will want to know so much about this rather rare condition.

A review of definitions, literature, concepts and theories of origin is followed by a summary of experience with 37 patients. Of most importance to paediatric neurosurgeons is the authors' final conclusion about the best method of treatment. This, essentially, consists of a cyst-peritoneal shunt preceded, when appropriate, by a ventriculo-peritoneal shunt. The very high proportion of associated cranio-cerebral anomalies helps to explain the unfavourable psycho-motor development of these children even when surgical management of the enlarged fourth ventricle and associated hydrocephalus is satisfactory.

The third section of the book on 'Critical Analysis of Diagnostic Studies' dwells at length upon refinements of angiography and pneumoencephalography which the authors consider still to be desirable even when computed tomography is available.

This excellent review is highly commended to those who may occasionally need to consider the management of the Dandy-Walker syndrome.

KENNETH TILL


I have kept this book by me for reference and have found it invaluable. The field of genetic disorders of the nervous system is a source of endless confusion to the tyro as its scope constantly expands, and its face changes. Two general issues have emerged in recent years: the increasing wealth of data from classical descriptions of individual genetic disease is an arduous task. What the clinician needs is a reference volume based upon age and clinical character of presentation of identifiable syndromes. Adams and Lyon has provided just this. The book is divided into sections on neonatal metabolic disease, early infantile progressive metabolic encephalopathies, and late childhood progressive genetic encephalopathies. Within each age-determined section, the differential diagnosis of mental retardation, psychomotor regression or dementia, spastic paraparesis, ataxia, myoclonus, dystonia, Parkinsonism, peripheral neuropathy, seizures, stroke, and intermittent neurological syndromes is discussed. Individual disease may be described in many sections, depending upon its clinical presentation. Thus, GM1 and GM2 gangliosidoses crop up in early infantile, late infantile and juvenile guises.

The accent is upon differential diagnosis and logical investigation, helped by many flow-charts of rational approaches to particular problems. These include reference to differentiation of genetic disorders from phenotypically similar acquired conditions, a distinction that is given prominence in a later general chapter. Further general