and include those who have added importantly to knowledge about monoamine oxidase (MAO) and its subtypes MAO A and B, to the discovery of their presence in the human brain and to the development of relatively selective inhibitors of MAO A and B.

The text is divided into three sections. The first, “Basic Aspects of MAO and its Selective Inhibitors” is perhaps the best. The chemical structural requirements for selectivity of MAO inhibitors are defined and conditions *in vitro* and *in vivo* for ensuring selectivity are examined. As yet, selectivity of the inhibitors is far from absolute and experiments are detailed in which effects of substrates of MAO A or B are enhanced more by inhibition of both enzymes than by either alone; the reverse of the coin, that is the limited substrate specificity of MAO A or B is also considered, a substantial amount of 5-HT (MAO A substrate) deamination being handled by MAO B *in vivo*. Inhibition of brain MAO A appears to be more crucial to antidepressant effect than MAO B, with the correlate that chronic treatment of rats with an MAO A but not an MAO B inhibitor, results in down-regulation of β-adrenoceptors and cyclic AMP responses to noradrenaline in cerebral cortex. The therapeutic importance of reversible selective MAO inhibitors is considered since these tend to have less tyramine potentiating properties than non-selective MAO inhibitors, an important additional aspect being their equi-effectiveness on brain and liver MAO compared to irreversible MAO inhibitors, more potent on liver than brain MAO. The clinical relevance of this is the smaller potential for the “cheese” effect complicating therapy. The recently discovered endogenous urinary monoamine oxidase is discussed together with the evidence that excretion varies in a number of physiological and pathological states. The virtue of deprenyl, an MAO B inhibitor, as an aphrodisiac in jaded or faded male rats is extolled, the context being that long-term administration of small doses of deprenyl may improve the quality of life in senescence.

The two other sections, “Selective and Nonselective MAO Inhibitors in Therapy” and “Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors in Psychiatric Research” are of more variable quality. The basic and clinical data concerning tranylcypromine stereoisomers are discussed as well as the discrepant findings as to their value as antidepressants. The role of deprenyl in the treatment of Parkinson’s disorder is also assessed. The limitations of use of platelets for predicting psychiatric disorder or psychopathology are well considered as are the methodological problems involved in platelet preparations. There are minor inaccuracies. For example, while adverse interactions between MAO inhibitors and amitriptyline hardly ever occur it is incorrect to state none have been reported.

Those involved in amine oxidase research are bound to have the volume on their shelves. The book is well-presented, informative and can be recommended to clinicians and research scientists.

**E MARLEY**

**Theory in Psychopharmacology. Vol 1**

This first volume of what promises to be an extremely valuable series contributes authoritative and thought-provoking discussion of neurochemical and pharmacological influences in a wide range of animal behaviours, including social interaction, learning, aversion, reward and habitation. The outstanding quality of this book is the provision by each author not only of a substantial review of these areas, but of a critical appraisal of methodological problems and interpretation of animal behaviour. Particularly revealing chapters in this respect are those by File and Blundell who discuss some basic problems with common experimental protocols. This self-analytical approach exposes the naive reader to some of the pitfalls encountered in the interpretation of complex behaviours, which once revealed, seem disarmingly obvious. In contrast, some other chapters, such as those by Panksepp and Margules which deal with brain opioids and the social integration of behaviour, are more speculative but equally enjoyable to read. The enthusiasm, level of discussion and depth of literature reviewed make the whole book a pleasure to read. If subsequent volumes continue in this spirit, the series will be a major contribution to psychopharmacology.

**NMJ RUPNIAK**


This is a good book. It must therefore be disheartening for the authors to find that the publishers are asking 73 dollars for it. Inevitably this is a book for the library (if they can afford it) and not for the individual neurologist or geneticist. The book has a strong biochemical bias with extensive chapters on the mucopolysaccharidoses, glycosgenoses and other inborn errors of metabolism. These are well-referenced and are more than sufficient for the clinician. The same is true for the chapters on epilepsy, basal ganglia disease and muscle disease. Rarities are not dealt with.

There are some areas in neurogenetics which present great difficulty. These include the hereditary ataxias, the neuropathies and the many eponymous syndromes of which those of Ramsay Hunt and Roussy-Levy are but two. Not all of these problems are resolved, but in general the clinician will feel well informed by experienced practitioners.

The reviewer tested the book at an average genetic clinic. The section on myotonic dystrophy was unhelpful on how to counsel potential gene carriers, but the coverage on a similar problem in tuberous sclerosis was instructive. In anticipation of a question on the biochemistry of Huntington’s chorea, the reviewer found the summary of the pathochemistry most helpful but there was no information on how to advise a patient with a family history of multiple sclerosis in two generations.

Finally a rapid check on the risks to offspring of a single person with hereditary motor and sensory neuropathy, type II, was reassuring. It was in the end, despite the minor omissions, exceedingly comforting to have had the book close at hand and the library should be persuaded to buy it.

**M BARAITSER**


Many of us grew up in a generation which was not taught much about the recognition and treatment of drinking problems, only to find over recent years that excessive drinking seems commonly and deviously to enter into our daily clinical work. For anyone wanting to repair previous gaps in education Zimberg provides a useful but not a complete answer.

Sections deal with such issues as diagnosis, the clinical interview, management of psychiatric and neurological complications, and varieties of approach to treatment. There are comprehensive references and a good index.
Where the book shows its limits is for instance in its discussion of neurological issues. The section on “dementia associated with alcoholism” runs to 17 lines, and we are given just 10 lines on Korsakoff.

GRiffITH EDWARDS


This is perhaps the best known book on the management of headache and is undoubtedly the standard text book. It is beautifully written with absolute clarity and is a model of good neurological writing. There is nothing that one can disagree with and it reflects the broad interest and expertise that Professor Lance has taken in this subject for many years. There is also, at the beginning of each chapter, an eminently apropos quotation which makes light reading. I cannot praise this book too highly and any neurologist who does not possess his own copy is missing out. Each edition is an improvement on the last and I look forward to the next one in the not too distant future.

F CLIFFORD ROSE


This trilingual book (English, French and German) is the product of a workshop on recording of central nervous system abnormalities held in Brussels in 1979 as part of the coordination programme of EUROCAT (EEC Concerted Action Project/Registration of Congenital Abnormalities and Twins). It is aimed at helping “relatively inexperienced doctors, midwives and pathologists to make correct diagnoses of babies born with visible congenital malformations of the central nervous system.”

The first page is devoted to acephalus and is an absolute gem of brevity and clarity. It consists of one sentence, “This disorder is extremely rare and is characterised by total absence of the head”. There is no associated illustration. The remaining major malformations, which include anencephalus, encephalocoele, meningoecele, cranium bifidum occultum, congenital hydrocephalus, arhinencephaly, hydranencephaly, microcephaly, split notochord syndrome and sacrococcygeal teratoma are all lavishly illustrated by excellent colour photographs. There are also very brief and clear basic descriptions of each anomaly. The authors have also included an appendix which lists a broader range of congenital anomalies of the nervous system, together with a definition of them and synonyms used in the past.

If the non-specialists at whom this book is aimed can be encouraged to use it, it should certainly help to achieve the basic aim of uniformity and accuracy of nomenclature in children born with major nervous system malformations.

VICTOR DUBOWITZ


This book would have been better value had it been prepared for non-American readers. But in this American edition, the names of all drugs are American, and the English reader needs a list of English equivalents. Otherwise it is a useful book for anyone treating pain; it is practical and up-to-date.

It is written in the usual medical jargon, which is far worse on the other side of the Atlantic. For instance, the author writes redundantly of “motor movements”; and he tells us that “current consensus holds that peripheral information concerning a noxious stimulus is transmitted through many central nervous system pathways to many brain divisions”. The many tables are good and there are a lot of references. The parts of the book on narcotic analgesics are very good, and there is a lot of useful information on drug interactions. The explanations of pharmacology and pharmacological actions of substances are clear. But in the chapters on the anatomy and physiology of pain, there is the common defect shown by workers from another field of stating assumptions as though they are facts and of giving results obtained from various species as though they have been shown to be true for man.

It is interesting to read about the taking of drugs in the United States. The American Medical Association Committee on Alcoholism and Addiction Council of Mental Health reported that in the 1960s, enough barbiturate tablets were given to supply every American citizen with 25 doses of 100 mg each. The author stresses that dependence on narcotic drugs, nevertheless, is only very slightly due to doctors; and in fact the possibility of inducing addiction still looms far too large in the minds of doctors prescribing drugs for pain. There is no mention of Kosterlitz’s use of the guineapig ileum for studying drug dependence and tolerance; nor of the treatment of narcotic addiction by electric acupuncture...

pw nathan


This well produced little book contains the proceedings of a conference on cerebrovascular disease in Kyoto, Japan. The conference was held in connection with the International Extradural/Intracranial By-pass Study and the contents reflect the preoccupation with those conditions which may possibly be treated by this technique: giant aneurysms, distal carotid and middle cerebral occlusions and arterial spasm following subarachnoid haemorrhage.

There are assorted experimental papers of no great relevance and reviews of medical treatment. More than half of the papers are by Japanese workers and it is interesting to note the differences in clinical presentation of cerebral arterial disease in that country, notably the high incidence of middle cerebral atheroma and pulseless disease.

The book ends with the progress report on the bypass study by its organiser Dr HJM Barnett. Already over 1000 patients have been randomised for medical and surgical treatment and the results are expected in 1985.

rw ross russell