

but the realisation that many patients with severe epilepsy may require multiple drugs is recognised and each section contains a chapter dealing with a range of drug interactions of practical importance. Chapters covering "Clinical Use" and "Toxicity" in each section help to maintain the clinical perspective. A section on "Benzodiazepines" devotes single chapters to each of the main drugs in this category, a further section considers other antiepileptic drugs such as acetazolamide, ACTH and even bromides, and the volume concludes with a section on "Potential Antiepileptic Drugs". The seven "new" drugs in this last section appear to have been chosen to illustrate the varieties of chemical structures possessing anticonvulsant activity.

The main practical aspects of anticonvulsant use are well covered. The use of anticonvulsant blood levels in management of epilepsy is possibly overemphasised by some authors and the recommendation to obtain estimations of carbamazepine and carbamazepine epoxide as a routine is unrealistic. The teratogenic potential of anticonvulsants is discussed, but clear recommendations on prescribing anticonvulsants in pregnancy are hard to find. The absence of any mention of chlormethiazole, which is widely used outside North America for treating status epilepticus, is an important omission. The layout of headings and consistency of format allow topics to be located fairly readily, but ease of reference depends on the index which is good but not fully comprehensive. Teratogenicity of Phenobarbital does not appear in the index. Synonymous terms are not always cross-referenced. There are several typographical errors and some references in the text to incorrect chapter numbers.

Considering the scope of the work the criticisms are minor and the editors and authors are to be congratulated. This book would be invaluable to anyone with a serious research interest in epilepsy. The large proportion devoted to detailed pharmacology would be superfluous to the needs and tastes of most neurologists but the book contains much of interest and deserves a place in libraries and specialist centres to which it can be strongly recommended.

ANDREW GALE

Neurology and General Medicine Edited by Michael J Aminoff. (Pp 800; Illustrations 200; £60.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1989

There have been several moderate sized text books of general neurology published in the past few years of good quality. This book, though, has been designed for a specific niche in the market which has previously not been filled. Its purpose is to "bridge" general medicine and neurology. Thus, it is not intended to be primarily a text book of neurology, but to highlight those neurological complications of medical conditions and conversely to show how medical problems may exacerbate neurological disorders. This book will be welcomed by neurologists who spend much of their time in the milieu of district hospitals and who are not infrequently asked by their general medical colleagues: can this neurological complication happen in so-and-so? It will also provide a good reference source to general physicians wanting to know more about the neurological conditions they are confronted with.

Its span is wide, ranging from the neurological complications of cardiac surgery, hypertension and renal failure, to psychiatric aspects of neurology and sleep disorders. This is a multi-author book and so some chapters are much better than others. It means too that the book lacks cohesion and is most profitably used as a starting point for a single topic, rather than read sequentially. Some chapters appear tacked on: neurology of ageing and rehabilitation of the neurological disabled patient cannot be adequately dealt with in this format. Other chapters tend to be lists of all the known complications of a particular disorder and do not give any feel of the disease. A particular problem is the number of references. Why must a textbook from such distinguished contributors contain so many? The chapter on thyroid disease is a case in point, eight pages of text, seven pages of references (248 references). Surely this is an unnecessary obsession. Nevertheless there are masterly views of difficult topics; Michael Swash on sphincter disorders and the nervous system stands out.

Most neurologists and general physicians will find this a useful book to have close to hand. It can be improved and I look forward to seeing a second edition.

C CLOUGH

SHORT NOTICES

The Neuropeptide Cholecystokinin (CCK) Anatomy and biochemistry, receptors, pharmacology and physiology. Ellis Horwood Series in Neuroscience. Edited by J HUGHES, G DOCKRAY, F WOODRUFF. (Pp 252; £49.95). Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 1989.

Epilepsy Bibliography. Books and Monographs (1945-1988). 6th edition compiled by Y FUKUYAMA. (Pp 254; price not stated). Kyowa Hakko Kogyo Co Ltd. 1989. ISBN 4-938507-05-6.

A useful source for reference. Available from Prof Y Fukuyama, Department of Paediatrics, Tokyo Women's Medical College, 8-1 Kawadacho, Shinjuku, Tokyo 162.

Treatment of tricyclic-resistant Depression. Progress in Psychiatry series. Edited by I L EXTEIN. (Pp 167; £17.50). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990. ISBN 0-88048-140-4.

Advocacy on behalf of children with serious emotional problems. Edited by R M FRIEDMAN, A J DUCHNOWSKI, E L HENDERSON. (Pp 152; \$29.75). Illinois: Charles Thomas, 1989. ISBN 0-398-05605-6. Hardback.

Criteria for diagnosis. Edited by J WILLIS HURST. (Pp 603; £24.95). Guildford: Butterworth Scientific Ltd, 1989. ISBN 0-409-90150-4. Hardcover.

An American style comprehensive series of miniature sketches which embraces definitions and diagnostic criteria for most diseases. Each paragraph is referenced and some show compressed tabulated data. An essential possession for the acquisitive, compulsive, obsessional.

NOTICE

Ethical issues policy statement on Huntington's disease: molecular genetics predictive test

An "Ethical issues policy statement on Huntington's disease molecular genetics predictive test" has been published in the *Journal of Neurological Sciences* 1989, vol 94, 327-32, and in the January 1990 issue of the *Journal of Medical Genetics*.

This statement describes recommendations and guidelines which were prepared by a committee (chairman L N Went) set up jointly by the International Huntington Association (representing lay organisations in 22 countries) and by the Research Group on Huntington's Chorea of the World Federation of Neurology. They were adopted in their present form by both organisations at their respective meetings in Vancouver in July 1989. In these guidelines the requirements for setting up a predictive testing programme are outlined. Reprints of the complete text are available in Canada from: Huntington Society of Canada, Box 333, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada N1R 5T8; in the United States from: Professor Arthur Falek, Georgia Mental Health Institute, Emory University Department of Psychiatry, 1256 Briarcliff Rd NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30306; and in Europe from: Netherlands Chorea of Huntington Foundation, Terweeweg 142, 2341 CX, Oegstgeest, the Netherlands.

They refer to the counselling which is needed, to the criteria to be satisfied by applicants and to the required security measures for laboratory procedures and storage of information and DNA. They are subdivided under the following headings: essential pre-test information to be provided to the participant; information on consequences; information on alternatives the applicant can adopt; essential pre-test information on pre-natal diagnosis; the test and the delivery of the results; and the post-test counselling.

Presymptomatic and pre-natal testing with the help of DNA analysis is being and will undoubtedly continue to be developed for other severe dominant late onset hereditary disorders. It is hoped that this policy statement can help in such developments.

L N Went

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Literature citation in short reports and letters: Due acknowledgement of appropriate prior reports should be given. On the other hand, a comprehensive, general review of a topic is not appropriate as part of a short report or letter and references should be selected for relevance to the specific topic of the report.

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