within the vertebrate and invertebrate nervous system. However many members of the club may be found in embryos before the differentiation of cells recognisable as nervous tissue. What, then, is the function of the transmitters in the absence of nerves?

To some extent this argument is semantic. We could rewrite the above thesis like this—Early in development a group of gene products are being transcribed: later on we know that these are concentrated in nervous tissue and are there concerned with transmission of nerve impulses. In that form the question of early function almost answers itself, and we might well expect that the substances concerned are doing in nervous tissue what they do best, and have always done, act as mediators of cell–cell communication.

Buznikov’s extensive studies on invertebrates (plus Launder’s chapter on vertebrates and Kater & Haydon’s on neuronal outgrowth) are claimed only to have demonstrated that pre-nervous transmitters exist: the main author is more reticent about their universal distribution and their function. However if not universal they are demonstrated to be widespread, and their many functions (variously as intracellular regulators, transmitters of non nervous intercellular interactions, as local hormones or non-synaptic transmitters) have been enumerated and extensively documented.

On the whole a very useful source of references; too expensive to be affordable by individuals but a necessity for any comprehensive library.

DR. JOHNSON


A Kings Fund report (1988) on community services for people with physical disabilities stated that “Aids and equipment supply is the single most confused area of service provision for disabled people”.

This practical handbook explains in simple terms the statutory framework behind the provision of equipment for the disabled and offers practical advice and guidance on the general criteria to those who deal with the provision of aids and equipment whether they be Health Service or Social Services based.

The information contained in this book is up to date and relevant to any of us who are asked to make an assessment of a disabled person and would be an excellent source of reference in any Occupational Therapy, Department, Social Services or Housing Department.

BARBARA MARSDEN

Section of Neurology, Royal Society of Medicine. Symposium on Molecular Genetics, 25-26 February 1991, London. Further details from Mrs N Lewis, Sections Officer, The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE.

Regulations for Upjohn prize for Neurosurgical Research of the European Association of Neurological Societies. A prize of $3000 is offered by the Upjohn Company and awarded annually by the EANS. Those eligible for the prize should be neurosurgeons under the age of 40 at the time of submission, who are either fully trained or still in the course of their training. Applicants should be either a member of one of the national societies of the EANS or should be supported by such a member. The basis of the manuscripts submitted should be previously unpublished research work, either clinical or experimental or both, of relevance in the field of neuroscience. There are no specific regulations for the format or type of manuscript. Thirteen copies of the submitted manuscript, together with a brief curriculum vitae should be sent to the chairman of the EANS Research Committee before 1 April 1991. The prize will be normally presented during the EANS training course of 1991 and the winner will be invited to attend that meeting and to present their work. The Chairman of the EANS Research Committee is: Professor J D Pickard, Wessex Neurological Centre, Southampton General Hospital, Southampton S09 4XY, United Kingdom.

The fourth Meeting of the Neurosurgery Research Group of the World Federation of Neurology, 6-8 June 1991, Hiroshima, Japan. Details from The Secretariat, c/o International Conference Organisers, Walsh Japan Company, 1F Royal Building, 12-8 Nibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102 Japan. Fax: 03 5275 6994.

Focus on Epilepsy Symposium: cellular mechanisms and pharmacological approaches, 10-12 August 1991, Addle, Quebec, Canada. Details from Focus on Epilepsy Symposium Secretariat, 3801 University Street, Room 504, Montreal, Quebec H3A 2B4, Canada. Fax: 514 398 8540.