and health services are undergoing major changes.

Professor Arie has selected a panel of distinguished contributors from home and abroad. The range of topics is appropriately wide and there is enough here to interest the academic as well as the jobbing psychogeriatrician and geriatrician. There are sensible reviews of ubiquitin, diffuse Lewy body disease, the potential biochemical tests for Alzheimer’s disease and the epidemiology of dementia. Those interested in therapeutics will have to wait for the next edition. More clinically orientated were the chapters on depression, mania and paranoid disorders.

A review by Walker on the social services, with particular emphasis on the individual and community care is especially topical: will they match vision with funding? Three chapters on carers emphasize the importance of listening to and caring for the carers in any good service. Dr Jolley and Professor Arie look at psychogeriatric services with reference to the international scene and the current political context: there is plenty here to discuss with one’s colleagues and managers. An overview on audit shows that as in so many specialities it is still really only in its infancy, and no doubt this will be a chapter to repeat in a future edition, perhaps with a section on memory clinics? Sensitivity to the needs of the disabled in hospitals is a current issue and the chapter on designing for confused old people deserves to be read by managers and architects.

Required reading for all clinicians interested in the elderly.

JGC COX

Soviet Scientific Reviews/Section F: Physiology and General Biology Reviews Vol 5, parts 1-4. Part 1: Problems of Internal Inhibition. The Dominant and the Conditioned Reflex. Edited by Gasanov, PAVLYGENA. (Pp 75; Price: £20.00; £11.00) ISBN 3 7186 5160 2


Part 3: A New Ideology of Studies of the Neurophysiological Correlates of Mental Activity. ISBN 3 7186 5177 7. Edited by MEIWEDE/PATKORMOV. (Pp 54; Price: £14.00)


These four small booklets are edited by two members of the USSR Academy of Sciences, as it then was when the papers were commissioned and written. The four sections cover higher nervous activity. Part 1 is dedicated to the problems of internal inhibition and the dominant and conditioned reflex. The first paper gives an interesting history and analysis of the work of Pavlov and brings readers up to date with suggestions for the neurophysiological basis of mental inhibition (a process that suppresses the elaborated reaction). The second paper of part 1 is a further discourse on conditioned reflexes with original data on goal directed reactions.

The second paper of volume 5 discusses relay functions of hippocampal monoamines in acquired and inborn forms of behaviour and the physiological mechanisms of complex behaviour in anthropoids. The papers in this section contain original experiments on the effects on monoamines on hippocampal function. Previous work has suggested that an increase in the 5HT content of the hippocampus weakens memory and learning. Damage to 5HT containing neurones in the raphé nucleus accelerates the development and persistence of the conditioned reflex of active avoidance. The relevance of these observations may take on additional importance bearing in mind the provisional data suggesting some benefit of 5HT receptor subtype active drugs on cognitive function in pathological states.

The third part of this volume on higher nervous activity discusses studies of the neurophysiological correlates of mental activity and deals with methods of studying the brain’s systems for maintenance of “mental activity”. The final part of this volume is on the neural mechanisms of conscious and unconscious perception and contains an interesting section on the functional relationships between the hemispheres and the unconscious.

The English translation of these papers is of a high standard but despite this I found the concepts elaborated difficult to penetrate. Nevertheless, there may be material here which some psychologists, psychiatrists and neurophysiologists may find of interest. To the general neurologist however, I suspect there will be little here to hold his attention. The papers in volume 5 reference material only up to 1986 and therefore these booklets are already significantly out of date. This may of course represent the difficulty of publishing scientific material in the old USSR.

AHV SCHAPIRA


In recent years neurologists, neuroanatomists and pharmacologists have highlighted exciting new developments in the understanding and treatment of epilepsy. There is a danger that the needs of the individual will be swamped by science. With their careful choice of contributors, Hermann and Seidenberg show that the study of psychological and social aspects of epilepsy can be equally rewarding. The issue of a paperback, after the hardback published in 1989, confirms the appeal of the original.

Clinicians can find ample information to assist them in improving the quality of care of children and adolescents with epilepsies and their families. Classification of seizures and epilepsies is followed by details of neurological and psychological approaches. The prognosis of cognitive functions, academic achievement and school performance, information processing, and neuropsychological functioning are dealt with comprehensively, yet succinctly. Several authors present results of their continuing studies.

One of the aims of the editors was to provoke further research, and most of the contributors have highlighted gaps in current knowledge. Strategies for controlling for the many variables involved in cognitive and psychosocial studies are required. Problems related to the infant and pre-school child have received little attention. Family developmental factors are understudied. Longitudinal investigations of cognitive functions are few. Work on compliance has concentrated on adolescents and there is little information about carers. Limitations of current vocational assessments are highlighted. Researchers are provided with a mine of information about potential projects. The real need for more financial resources is emphasised by several contributors.

All those working with children with epilepsy should read and note this book. Inevitably the standard of care will be improved as a result.

S J WALLACE

World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies
Awards to Young Neurosurgeons

The World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies will give five awards to young neurosurgeons for the best papers submitted for presentation at the Tenth International Congress of Neurological Surgery in Acapulco, Mexico on 17-22 October, 1993. This will be open to all neurosurgeons born after 31 December, 1957. Each award will consist of an honorarium of US $1500, a certificate, complete waiver of registration fees and also accommodation for the Congress. The papers will be judged by a committee and must contain original, unpublished work on basic research or clinical studies related to neurosurgery.

Young neurosurgeons should submit 8 copies of the manuscript (not more than 10 double spaced typed written pages exclusive of figures and tables) to: Dr Albert L. Rhoton, Jr, Chairman WFNS Young Neurosurgeons Committee, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Florida College of Medicine, PO Box 100265, JHM Health Center, Gainesville, Florida 32610-0265, USA.

The last date for submission is 31 November 1992.

If there is more than one author, the senior author’s name and address (including country) must be mentioned.