field are thin on the ground, and there is little useful practical advice. For example, we are told that simple visual hallucinations are not very suggestive in partial epilepsy, but we are not told that they may be distinguished from the hallucinations of migraine as the latter are usually black and white and linear, whereas the former are usually coloured and rounded. The chapter on differentiating non-convulsive status from delirium is particularly unilluminating. Too often we are given a fairly standard review of a subject with little thought to how its phenomenology might overlap with that of seizure disorders. I cannot see the point in the chapter on movement disorders which includes sections on torticollis, facial dystonia and Tourette's syndrome yet dismisses juvenile myoclonic epilepsy in one sentence.

The author tends to reinforce the view, still current amongst some physicians, that the main aim of epilepsy diagnosis is to distinguish "epilepsy" from "non-epileptic attack". However, "epilepsy" is no longer an adequate diagnosis, as different epileptic syndromes have distinct appropriate treatments. The importance of recognition in the neurology clinic is much more likely to be "what kind of epilepsy is this?" Patients are entitled to a precise diagnosis of their seizure disorder, and this can only be achieved through thorough knowledge of the phenomenology of epilepsy syndromes and their syndromic classification. Only then can the diagnosis and classification of non-epileptic attacks be pursued.

RICHARD GRUNEWALD


This book is a commemoration of the work and influence of Istvan Tork and thus sets out to define the CNS in terms of neurotranspharmacological networks rather than anatomical entities. This approach has much to commend it, at least because of its heuristic value from a pharmaco-therapeutic point of view. However, although neurotransmitters may seem a logical defining point for such an approach, it may prove ultimately more successful to define networks by their effector receptor subtypes rather than the afferent neurotransmitter. This said, the book presents much interesting data that support the editor's approach although on occasions it can be used to highlight the limitations of this neuropharmacological approach. Chapters 1 and 2, for example, illustrate well the strengths of the chemo-architectonic model as homogenous areas or cells in the CNS can be defined using neurotransmitter labels. Thus areas of the brainstem become more clearly delineated using a range of different neurotransmitter markers (for example, chapter 1) and similarly amacrine cells in the retina can be subdivided into pharmacological groups which may have functional consequences (for example, chapter 2).

However, there are a number of shortcomings that then become apparent as the book unfolds, some of which are a consequence of this type of book: one that summarises conference proceedings. Firstly there is a tendency to repetition and the cataloguing of neurotransmitter types and localisation with reference to the functional significance of this distribution. Whilst this may reflect a lack of relevant work (for example, chapter 6 on excitatory amino acids and neurotoxicity in the human neo-cortex), it may also be a consequence of too limited a discussion (for example, chapter 3 on the developing visual cortex). A second difficulty that this book encounters is the necessity to use terminology figures with even smaller inserts. This is a great shame as the book relies heavily on detailed immunohistochmical studies which are difficult to appreciate at this scale of illustration. Finally the book is rather eclectic in the topics it discusses, so that some chapters seem misplaced in a book on human neuropharmacology (for example, chapter 11 on striatal pathology, grafts and GABA binding), whilst other chapters present small limited studies of only limited significance (for example, the neurotransmitter changes in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease discussed in chapters 12 and 13). It is rather eclectic in the trade with a sense of disorientation and only limited insight.

Overall this book sets out an interesting approach and presents some useful insights into the distribution of neurotransmitters in both the normal and diseased human brain. However, it ultimately fails to capture the reader's imagination, and reads more as a list of pharmacological pathways than chapters on the pharmacological organisation of the human brain.

ROGER BARKER


We are increasingly aware of neurological disorders caused or exacerbated by various chemicals and trauma encountered during work—an area known as "Occupational Neurology". Indeed, given the current epidemic of industrial manslaughter and the increasingly restrictive regulations governing the safety of the working environment, sooner or later most neurologists will be pressed by lawyers for a view as to whether their patient has an occupational disease. In Chapter 3 of this book the coordinating author, Rosenberg, outlines a format for rigorous and defensible analysis of causation when an occupational cause is suspected. The analytical method derives from the time-honoured Koch-Henle postulates about bacterial pathogenesis which were modified by Evans and Hill to the occupational setting. Although this approach seems to be the only valid analytical tool, it is cumbersome. In the field of occupational exposure it will always be difficult to strike a balance between either proffering too many diagnoses of a speculative and potentially inaccurate nature, or withholding such diagnoses because clear-cut proof of an occupational cause is so difficult to assemble.

It is valuable to have this area of neurology summarised in such a clear and comprehensive volume; Dr Rosenberg deserves particular credit. The subject matter ranges through organic solvents, toxic movement disorders and neuropathies, brain and spinal cord injury, low-back pain, and problems particular to performing artists. Each neurotoxic chemical is discussed in sufficient detail for one to judge what constitutes a significant exposure, without submersion by the abbreviations and dry jargon that so often characterises such information. The chapter on movement disorders contains an excellent up-to-date review of the association between Parkinson's disease and environmental chemical exposure which must necessarily be seen as an indication of the potential for an occupationally rather than recreational hazard for some. It is a pity that the uncertain question of how much alcohol is needed to cause peripheral neuropathy is not addressed. Many presume this question to be answered by edicts from the health police that men can drink up to 21 units per week with safety. But the limited evidence which is available suggests that alcohol neuropathy is unlikely until at least 45 units of alcohol are drunk weekly for some years.

The rapidly growing area of "cumulative trauma disorders" is reviewed. Many will know these as "repetitive strain injuries", "over-use syndromes", "occupational cervico-brachial disorders", and most frequently encounter them as carpal tunnel syndrome due to repetitive hand use. It is significant that the section on brain and spinal trauma excluded motor vehicle injuries given the rather higher rate of accidents which occurs in those who drive company cars. This trauma chapter should have discussed the post-traumatic syndrome, and reviewed the controversial evidence for underlying brain damage, given that this disorder so commonly interferes with work following head injury. Writer's cramp is not dealt with in depth; perhaps the personal computer is driving that disorder out of the American workplace. The discussion of work-related low-back pain is refreshingly realistic about the range of scientifically sound diagnoses despite the frequency of successful compensation claims. This chapter contains a valuable discussion of how to rehabilitate low-back pain patients and how to advise them on whether they might return to work, and if so to which type.

From time to time most of us will need access to this succinct, well-indexed and carefully referenced book on occupational neurology. Lawyers specialising in this area of personal injury litigation will find it especially useful. It is a pity the title also refers to "environmental" neurology since the book does not discuss topics such as heatstroke, altitude and decompression sickness, trench foot, or lightening strikes and electric shock.

MICHAEL DONAGHY


This is an impressive volume of more than 1200 pages on the topic of peripheral clinical neurophysiology. It is impossible to cover this book in any depth but it is a comprehensive review of electromyography and somatosensory evoked potentials. The introductory chapters on physiology, volume conduction and instrumentation are well

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