reflexes are elicited differently in Czechoslovakia than in North America. For example, the Moro reflex is generally produced in neonates by a "swift removal of the base" or by "compression of the epigastrium" rather than by rapidly letting the head drop. A number of terms related to motility, most of which are unfamiliar to most western educated neurologists, are defined; examples include "dromokinetic", "kratikinetic", and "holokinetic".

Lesný describes several syndromes of dyskinesia in childhood, and his strong belief in the importance of the corpus striatum at all ages is emphasized. Some diseases considered rare in Canada apparently are much more common in Czechoslovakia, including ataxia-telangiectasia, a form of dystonia known as "lordotic dysbasia", and Hallervorden-Spatz disease. Lesný states that 20 to 30 percent of all cases of "infantile cerebral paralysis" in Czechoslovakia are dyskinetic forms.

The main purpose of this brief monograph, however, was to emphasize the crucial role of subcorticospinal motor systems in the ontogenesis of motor control in the developing child, parallel to the concepts of the late Professor Derek Denny-Brown of Boston. The hypothetical or interpretative part of the text may best be conveyed by a few short quotations from Professor Lesný's concluding statement: "Basal ganglia do not exist as a functional organ. They are a fiction constructed by anatomists . . . Extra-cortical grey is a part of a large subcortical regulatory motor servosystem. . . In functional ontogenesis there develops the subcortical sensorimotor system most probably by the method of 'trial connections' . . .".

I found Professor Lesný's concepts provocative and refreshing, although admittedly largely speculative. I would recommend this small paperback to those interested in the conceptual foundations of motor integration in development, but I must caution that disappointment may be in store for those with expectations of a critical discussion of modern electrophysiological data. Although written in English (a translation from Czech), it is published in Prague and may be difficult to locate in North America. It may be ordered directly from the publisher: Univerzita Karlova, Ovocný trh 3, 116 36 Praha 1, Czechoslovakia.

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THE OLIVOPONTOCEREBELLAR ATROPHIES. 1st edition, vol 41, Advances in Neurology. Edited by Roger C. Duvoisin and Andreas Plaitakis. Published by Raven Press. 286 pages. $59 Cdn. approx.

Research in the olivopontocerebellar atrophies has increased considerably in the last few years, most notably with the discovery of glutamate dehydrogenase deficiency in one variety. The preface of this latest addition to the Advances in Neurology Series informs us that "in this volume, the OPCAs are critically assessed with regard to their clinical, pathological, radiological and physiological characteristics in light of new knowledge". Most of the editors' goals are accomplished although the volume does suffer from the problems inherent in any multi-authored text. There is a great deal of controversy as to how to classify this group of disorders in view of their wide ranging clinical and pathological heterogeneity. This confusion is further aggravated by the lack of uniformity seen in multi-authored texts. Some authors prefer to include or exclude certain disorders and others do the opposite. We, therefore see both ends of the lumper-splitter spectrum here. It could be argued that one possible example of excessive lumping might be the inclusion of a chapter on Joseph disease by Rosenberg and another dealing with a "dominantly inherited ataxia with abnormal urinary glycolipid content" by Berenberg et al (without CT or pathological evidence for this being an OPCA).

Chapters on neurpathology and CT scan abnormalities are quite useful and informative. It is difficult to evaluate the importance of much of the physiological data presented by Narabayashi since most of this is based on experience with one patient. The concept of the inverse relationship between cerebellar and extrapyramidal features (the latter masking the former) is supported by his electrophysiological study. However, this is not a universal pattern of progression in all patients and so generalizations from this data may not be appropriate.

Disorders of ocular motility and autonomic dysfunction are dealt with in some detail. In the case of the latter, the multiple-author problem again becomes apparent. Chokroverty distinguishes Shy-Drager syndrome from the OPCAs emphasizing that it is a distinct disorder rather than one end of a spectrum. Other authors in the text seem to prefer the concept of "muliple system atrophies" instead. It is not clear whether the other authors mean the Shy-Drager syndrome when they are discussing OPCAs with autonomic dysfunction. To Chokroverty these seem to be two different things.

Chapters dealing with pharmacology and biochemistry are interesting. Perry has divided five different pedigrees of OPCAs into four disorders based on alterations in the levels of GABA, glutamate, aspartate, and taurine in various regions of the central nervous system. In view of the neuropathological heterogeneity of these disorders, it is unclear at present how useful this type of biochemical classification will be. As mentioned, one of the main driving forces for the production of this text was the discovery of glutamate dehydrogenase deficiency in one form of OPCA. Discussions by Plaitakis and Duvoisin, and Chokroverty provide a good review of the clinical, biochemical and possible pathophysiological aspects of this disorder.

This text will appeal to neuroscientists with a broad range of interests. Overall, it does add some useful information to the increasing literature dealing with this group of "degenerative" neurological disorders. The lack of uniform clinical and even neuropathological features in the OPCAs result in this volume suffering, possibly more than most, from the pitfalls inherent in a multi-authored text.

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ELECTROCLINICAL FEATURES OF THE PSYCHOMOTOR SEIZURE. 1983. By Heinz Gregor Wieser. Published by Gustav Fischer / Butterworths, Stuttgart / New York. 242 pages.

The medical and surgical therapy of psychomotor (complex partial) seizures remains imperfect. The neuronal substrates of ictal phenomena such as automatisms, autonomic manifestations, and psychosensory and effective auras are poorly understood. Detailed electroclinical studies of psychomotor seizures are required to understand their pathophysiology, improve localization techniques and rationalize therapy.

Wieser's monograph is an important contribution to this problem. The clinical features of seizures in 29 patients were meticulously analysed and correlated with the presence of ictal activity using an array of depth electrodes. This work was complemented by a further study of the effect of electrical stimulation, via depth electrodes, in a series of 31 patients. The