

limited to putative synaptic transmitters and excludes myelin lipids, carbohydrates, electrolytes, and other 'chemicals' of the brain.

Most of the book is organized regionally, with chapters on the peripheral nervous system, spinal cord, retina, raphé nuclei of the brainstem, cerebellar cortex, thalamus, hypothalamus, hippocampus, amygdala, olfactory bulb, corpus striatum, and cerebral cortex. An exception is a chapter on catecholamine systems, a chemical rather than a strictly anatomical arrangement. The book is profusely illustrated and well indexed. Most chapters contain a list of references which are extensive enough to alone be worth the purchase price.

In addition to reviewing the large body of published literature, new information also is offered. For example, Steinbusch and Nieuwenhuys provide a new immunocytochemical method for the direct localization of serotonin in sections of brain and offer convincing photomicrographs and an atlas of the rat brainstem using this method. The chapter on the peripheral nervous system by Schultzberg is well done and discusses many newly discovered peptides in addition to the now classical data on monoamines and acetylcholine. The olfactory bulb is discussed by Macrides and Davis in relation to transmitters including substance P, opioid peptides, somatostatin, and others, in greater depth than I previously have seen.

I would have enjoyed reading more discussions of the chemical anatomy of the nervous systems of nonmammalian vertebrates and invertebrates for comparison with mammals, as was done by Brecha in his chapter on retinal transmitters. In general I would recommend this book to any neuroscientists investigating neurotransmitters. This critical survey will save many hours in the library integrating voluminous data from the original sources.

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**CLINICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF PERIPHERAL NERVE DISEASES.** Proceedings of the Symposium on Clinical and Biological Aspects of the Peripheral Nervous System Diseases held in Padova, Italy, September 9-12, 1982. Edited by L. Battistin, G.A. Hashim, and A. Lajtha. Published by Alan R. Liss, Inc., New York. 402 pages. \$60 Cdn. approx.

This book documents the proceedings of a symposium held in Padova in September 1982, on peripheral nerve disorders. As might be expected, the majority of the papers are of interest to those working actively in the field rather than to clinical neuroscientists, but this volume does contain some communications of more general interest. For example, there is a clinical overview which provides a concise summary of the major causes of peripheral neuropathy, their distinctions, and their management. There is a well referenced discussion of the electrophysiological findings in peripheral nerve diseases. There is a section on epidemiology, which includes a discussion of the relationship of the Guillian-Barre syndrome to immunization against "swine flu", and to other antecedent events. The immunological aspects of experimental and of human peripheral nerve diseases are well reviewed in another paper, and there is a summary of recent work on serum-induced demyelination. In

another section there is an intriguing report on the recording of spontaneous activity, with microelectrodes from patients with "positive" symptoms following peripheral nerve injuries. These and other papers may be useful for reference.

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**PEDIATRIC HEAD TRAUMA.** 1983. Edited by Kenneth Shapiro, M.D. Futura Publishing Company, Mount Kisco, New York. 296 pages. \$46 Cdn. approx.

Those practitioners who care for children with head injury are often frustrated by the lack of reference to children's treatment in scientific reports on this topic. Thus, one hopes that this concise text will put the problem of pediatric head trauma in to perspective.

Right away, the first chapter must come to grips with the blending of statistics, while it considers the epidemiology of head trauma in children. The discussion refers to a patient population less than 14 years of age and in so doing, the author has had to extract figures from very large series which are all age inclusive. That done, the expected comes forth. More boys than girls suffer injuries, falls and road traffic accidents are by far the commonest culprits, and fortunately, children who have suffered one head injury, are not at increased risk of further insult. The medical, legal and ethical aspects of child abuse are considered in a separate chapter, and the warning signs of possible abuse enumerated. There is re-emphasis of the "Whiplash Shake Syndrome", which can be the covert explanation for subdural hematoma and more particularly unexplained retinal hemorrhages found in infants.

The initial triage decisions are next considered, first for children with head injury neither severe nor productive of lasting coma. It is calculated that of a substantial number of children who are assessed for head injury, less than 10% are admitted to hospital for observation. The challenge is placed whether this "under-evaluation" and "inappropriate triage has the potential of leading to grave complications". So, appropriate guidelines are provided. The matter of routine skull radiography is in general up for grabs, but in this instance, guidelines are precise about the characteristics of fractures in children's skulls.

The fact that 8% of children seen at random in the emergency room with head injury have skull fractures, whereas 27% of those admitted for observation have same, perhaps underscores what has been suspect for some time — namely, that triage decisions can more reliably be made on the basis of history and clinical examination than abnormal skull radiography. In passing, one takes issue with the statement that epidural hematoma are capable in some instances of decompressing themselves through the overlying fracture.

The radiology chapter is quite thorough, a mini-text of its own. The author has resisted the temptation to speak only about CT diagnosis of head injury, and has wisely begun this section with details of skull and spine radiography, their usefulness and pitfalls. The experience is amply supported by literature references as well as personal case encounters from the author's own children's hospital.