
The proceedings of a symposium held at Duke University in May, 1972 on this subject are summarized in this monograph. This is a most timely and important area of biology. The book is Vol. 6 of a series in Advances in Behavioral Biology. A distinguished panel of 35 scientists representing various basic and clinical areas have contributed. The book is organized into 3 main sections: (1) Bases of a psychopharmacology for aging; (2) Complications of drug use; and (3) Issues in clinical management of drugs. The first section has a primary neurochemical orientation with contributions on the brain biogenic amines, monoamine oxidase, cyclic AMP, a pituitary factor inhibiting thyroid and interactions of learning and memory with age.

The second section is concerned with dyskinesia in aging, pharmacological attempts to manage tardive dyskinesia, affect changes with l-DOPA, abuse potential of mild analgesics and clinical problems of drug treatment of the elderly. The third section is mainly clinical and covers a survey of drug effects upon cognitive function, memory loss and its possible relationship to chromosome changes, multiple system interactions, responses to psychotropic drugs, emotional responses, antianxiety agents, patient management, psychoses, paranoid syndromes, affective disorders and uses of antidepressants and electroshock. Each paper is written by an outstanding and well-known investigator.

A volume such as this is certainly welcome. The book covers a wide spectrum of drugs for the aged. If there are any criticisms it is that one would like to see even more, especially a detailed discussion of the electroencephalographic and sleep disorders of the aged and possible methods of treatment. The book is of value to electroencephalographers only as background material. It is recommended that all medical libraries obtain this volume as well as those especially involved in research in this area. Hopefully, this monograph will encourage others to promote further studies of brain changes in the aged from a neurophysiological and further neurochemical point of view.

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This very useful book is the work of 12 experienced authors who participated, singly or in pairs, in the writing of its ten chapters. It contributes significantly to the gradual closing of the gap which has existed since long ago between our knowledge of brain activity on the one hand and of the manifestations of the individual’s behaviour on the other, i.e., between neurophysiology and behavioural psychology. The book aids the reader to a more profound understanding of the brain–behaviour relations and offers a number of practical instructions and advice.

As seen from the headings of individual chapters (“Use of stereotaxic technique”; “Recording changes in electrical...