

Drugs and the developing brain. — A. Vernadakis and N. Weiner (Editors). (Plenum Press, New York, 1974, 537 p., \$22.50).

This volume is the proceedings of a symposium held at the University of Colorado which focuses on the cellular and organ level of brain development. The book is multi-authored and covers many different aspects. It is divided into a number of different sections with several chapters making up each part. Throughout, chemicals related to putative brain neurotransmitters are emphasized. The sections include CNS drugs: functional and behavioral development, developmental aspects of neurotransmission, enzymes, amino acids, proteins, nucleic acids, electrolytes and acid-base related to biochemical development. In addition, the developmental aspects of learning and memory, myelinogenesis, environmental and hormonal aspects of brain development are covered. The final section covers various therapeutic aspects related to hyperkinesis, occult brain damage and seizure disorders in children.

An impressively wide variety of subjects is covered in this emergent field of development pharmacology. The book covers primarily basic mechanisms. It is recommended for neuroscientists especially interested in vertebrate brain development. It is also a useful resource for all neuroscientists and should be available in medical libraries.

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Clinical pharmacology of anti-epileptic drugs. — H. Schneider, D. Janz, C. Gardner-Thorpe, H. Meinardi and A.L. Sherwin (Editors). Int. Symposium, Bethel, Bielefeld, 1974. (Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg—New York, 1975, 370 p., 89 Tables, 129 Figs., DM 128.00).

The book is divided into several chapters dealing with clinical pharmacology and two methodological sections (Quality control and standardization; Methodology of determination). A very useful dictionary of drug synonyms, chemical names and non-proprietary names of anti-epileptic drugs is included.

The topic is most important for the clinician as well as for the experimental worker in this field. Anti-epileptic pharmacotherapy is carried out in daily medical practice. Only in recent years, however, has it been possible to base the treatment on a deeper understanding of the pharmacokinetics, drug interactions and the individual response of the patient. The workshop clearly demonstrated the significance of determining serum levels of anti-epileptic drugs but also discussed the difficulties of interpreting the results in individual cases.

It was a good idea to bring together chemists, pharmacologists and epileptologists to discuss these problems from different points of view and to publish their discussions in a monograph which illustrates all trends and differences of opinions.

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