

In general, clinical description, pathophysiology and therapeutics are appropriately balanced. The emphasis on neuropharmacology is variable from chapter to chapter. Some chapters, such as those about parkinsonism (C.G. Goetz) and spasticity (R.A. Davidoff), integrate neurochemistry, pharmacology, and the practical use of drugs very well indeed. However, in places the content is more suitable for a general textbook of neurology, rather than one concerned with neuropharmacology and therapeutics. For example, the clinical syndromes caused by heavy metal intoxication are surveyed but little is said about treatment (chelating agents are discussed in another chapter). Likewise, the chapters about cerebrovascular disease and raised intracranial pressure could be shortened considerably if more specifically focussed on therapeutics.

Several contributions are first rate, such as J.E. Riggs's discussion of the classification, treatment and prophylaxis of periodic paralysis. Four chapters about mechanisms of action and use of anticonvulsants (T.P. Beck, M.C. Smith and H.L. Klawans) are a good distillation of experimental data, literature review, and the authors's personal approaches. Similarly, G.H. Fromm nicely combines the theoretical and practical in his discussion of trigeminal neuralgia, although not all readers will agree with Fromm's view that baclofen is the drug of first choice in this disorder. Some chapters contain references up to 1991 (for example, the interim results of the European and North American carotid endarterectomy trials are described), but readers seeking information about sumatriptan for migraine or intravenous immunoglobulin in inflammatory neuropathies will need to look elsewhere. Neurological pain syndromes other than headache (such as painful peripheral neuropathies) are not considered in any detail, and would have been welcome.

Overall, I found *Clinical Neuropharmacology and Therapeutics* to be a generally reliable and worthwhile reference book, with several outstanding contributions. The book's main weakness is a lack of focus in several chapters, making it unnecessarily long. Clinical neurologists and neurology trainees will likely find it to be a source of useful subject reviews and of help when dealing with infrequently encountered clinical problems.

*Colin H. Chalk
Montreal, Quebec*

EPILEPSY SURGERY. 1992. First Edition. Edited by Hans, Otto, Luders. Published by Raven Press, New York. 854 pages. \$143 Cdn.

This large textbook is the published result of the Second International Cleveland Clinic Epilepsy Symposium held in June, 1990. There are one hundred and fifty-five contributing authors. The book is designed to give any overview of epilepsy surgery and present recent advances in the field. It succeeds remarkably well.

I have used the book as a reference source for specific problems and have found a balanced discussion and a good reference list leading through the literature on each occasion. The text has something to offer virtually anyone involved in a clinical epilepsy surgery program. The chapters on General Overview "Conceptual Considerations", Medical Intractability and those discussing Epileptic Syndromes would be valuable reading for anyone in neurology or neurosurgery and can be highly recommended for trainees.

The sections on design of an interpretative epilepsy monitoring unit, EEG evaluation and magneto-encephalography could also be recommended for those in the EEG lab and the nursing and other staff involved with the patients.

The chapters on surgical techniques and complications are good, particularly the "Anatomic Considerations in Temporal Lobe Surgery". A wider range of information about different surgical techniques for temporal lobe resection could have been presented, however, this information is reasonably readily accessible elsewhere.

The chapters on surgical pathology and surgical specimen research are appreciated as they help to bring information in this rapidly evolving area into context.

I believe that no matter what one's involvement with the surgery for epilepsy, this will provide a very useful reference. Despite its price, it provides very good value and should be widely used.

*W.B. Woodhurst
Vancouver, B.C.*

IDIOSYNCRATIC REACTIONS TO VALPROATE. 1991. Edited by Rene H. Levy and J. Kiffin Penry. Published by Raven Press, New York. 165 pages. Price not available.

This soft cover monograph reviews the current state of knowledge concerning the idiosyncratic reactions to valproic acid therapy. It addresses in large part the hepatic toxicity of valproate. It is divided into 23 chapters and is multi-authored.

The monograph addresses the clinical and the biochemical features of valproate toxicity both in children and adults. There are contributions by 56 authors, both clinicians and basic scientists, from the United States, Canada and Europe.

The clinical chapters describe the clinical significance of valproate toxicity, its clinical manifestations, the age related incidence of hepatic toxicity, and the management of valproate related toxicity. Other chapters describe the drug induced liver pathology and the biochemical abnormalities and the disturbances of mitochondrial metabolism that are complicated in the hepatic toxicity of valproate. The role of free radical scavenger deficiency in valproate toxicity is discussed. Chapters on medium-chain acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase deficiency, disorders on the urea cycle, and organic acidemias are included.

The larger part of the monograph is devoted to the biochemistry of valproate hepatic toxicity. The clinical sections are brief.

The monograph should be of interest to both clinicians and basic scientists who are interested in the mechanisms and biochemical abnormalities of valproate toxicity. More complete clinical summaries can be found elsewhere. The monograph should be of interest to both adult and pediatric neurologists who treat patients with epilepsy. Despite the monograph being multi-authored the various chapters have been well edited and the style has been kept uniform throughout. The monograph is well referenced and could serve as a reference text on the clinical aspects of valproate toxicity and the proposed mechanisms.

*J. Bruni
Toronto, Ontario*