

REVIEWS

A NEUROBEHAVIORAL STUDY IN PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

By A. F. Kalverboer and W. Heinemann 1975 £4.50

"The author describes a relatively new method of neurological study of children with a history of variable brain damage. Their method is the free-field observation of the subjects in a room with or without their mothers with the observer not visible to the subjects. It is aptly said that the assessment of neurological deficit in a child means nothing if the neurological deficit cannot be assessed in a practical way, i.e. how does a neurological deficit hamper a child in his daily functioning—how does he behave with the deficit? If he behaves within the norm, the neurological deficit may not be of real significance.

This the author has done. The best part of the

work probably is with the so-called minimal brain dysfunction (MBD) syndrome—a rather nebulous entity which through the years has been accorded a certain amount of independent respectability. This is not necessarily true, and the author contributes much to this problem by applying his free-field observation methods.

This book is a novel one and should be read by all paediatricians."

Wong Hock Boon

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AN INTRODUCTION TO MEDICINE:
100 TOPICS

By J. G. Lewis and W. Heinemann 1975, £5.

This easy to read manual is specially prepared for the clinical medical student in transition from pre-clinical to clinical medicine.

The subject matter is simplified and introduces the statement in prose and pictures to the problem that he will face everyday in the wards from normal variation, examples of familial disease, illnesses caught from animals to endoscopy, intensive medi-

cal care, noisy breathing coma, cortisol excess etc. Teachers who use chalk for illustration can draw inspiration from the many line drawings.

It is a delightful book to present to one who has passed his or her first professional and is looking forward to the clinical years ahead.

Khoo Oon Teik

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MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF GONADAL
HORMONE ACTION

By J. A. Thomas and R. L. Singhal

Publisher: HM + M Publishers, Aylesbury, England, 1975.

Price: £14.50

The term "receptor" is used to describe the macromolecular component on "target" cells which bind a specific hormone. Till recently they were hypothetical but receptors have now been isolated for insulin, adrenalin, glucagon, vasopressin, ACTH and steroids. The present volume is another contribution to a burgeoning field emphasising gonadal steroid hormones with a chapter on prostaglandins

A lot is assumed of the reader. Being the first

volume of a projected series on Advances in Sex Hormone Research this comes as no surprise. The ragged presentation is disconcerting as two sections seem out of place: "The Canine Prostate and its Secretions" and "Effects of pesticides in Reproduction". In any case the book serves as an excellent manual on the experimental background to the early, elusive events that hormones partake in altering cellular metabolism. Two sections are particularly comprehensive and well-written. These are

“Androgen Binding and Metabolism” and “Cyclic 3’5’—Adenosine Phosphate and Accessory Sex Organ Responses”. Research efforts are being directed towards evolving a hypothesis that will tie up the well-established cyclic AMP-adenyl cyclase system with sex steroid receptors. When that is

accomplished the “two messenger theory” of hormone action will have to be modified to provide for a third intermediary, possibly an enzyme. But there will be general relief as another piece of life’s puzzle falls into place.

Aw Swee Eng

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RESEARCH IN DENTISTRY

By B. Cohen, with 22 contributors (1975)

British Medical Bulletin 31: 99-180. Price £3.50.

This issue of the Bulletin is devoted entirely to a review of current dental research in the United Kingdom. The contributors are distinguished experts in their respective areas of research which span over a wide range of interests. Topics discussed include craniofacial embryopathy, mechanisms of pain perception in teeth, immunological, bacterial and dietary aspects of dental caries and periodontal disease, composition and scanning electron microscopy of enamel, clinical application of current development in salivary gland research, pathogenesis of dental cysts and premalignant lesions in the mouth.

Although it is impossible to cover in a single issue every phase of dental research carried out in the United Kingdom, the editor has managed to provide a representative sampling of the significant researches. Dental surgeons and students should find this issue stimulating and informative. The sections on premalignant oral lesions and salivary gland disease may be of interest to medical practitioners.

Yip Wing Kong

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