

major factor in favor of this type of presentation—rapid publication—seems increasingly elusive.

There are also some criticisms of the layout of the book itself. It was a mistake to collect the discussions of the presentations at the end of the book, since they have no life of their own. They would have been more effective if they had followed the papers to which they relate. And the title of the book, thought informative and succinct, is sure to be the basis of ribald comments related to the Breathalyzer test for intoxication in the United States. But perhaps Dr. Moran Campbell wanted it that way.

JOHN BUTLER, M.D.
Department of Medicine
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195

Acupuncture for Physicians. EDITED BY T. MATSUMOTO. Springfield, Illinois, Charles C Thomas, 1974. Pages: 204. Price: \$14.75.

Erythroxylon coca casts a long shadow. Deep in our scientific souls there lingers the atavistic hope that somewhere, some when, some folk has, perhaps unknowingly, discovered the golden fleece, the elixir of life, the universal solvent, the universal cure for pain. After all, if cocaine. . .

Anesthesiologists as a group are peculiarly vulnerable to such beguiling fancies. Their science was founded on a series of lucky breaks. As humanitarians dedicated to the prevention of physical suffering, they feel compelled to test every reported panacea, no matter how implausible, regardless of whether common sense or neuroscience declares they are pursuing a chimera.

It says something about the United States that a vogue conceived in its highest office should ripple into the far corners of the western medical enterprise, and it says something about the good intentions of honest, highly educated men that they should, in the pursuit of the noble, put forth so much inconclusive effort to pin it down. On the other hand, some dedicated scientists have felt compelled to test the premises and claims of the cultists with all the rigor of their command. Unfortunately, in reading *Acupuncture for Physicians*, one is not sure to which category the author belongs. Rigor is not its forte. Here is a beautifully produced and illustrated compendium of clinical usage, practical to the last degree. Here also is a lengthy report about so-called research, candid and naive to the point of credulity. It includes 30 pages on acupuncture anesthesia in animals. What animals? Rabbits, of course,—no one tries to acupuncture cats. "It was possible to perform surgical procedures on rabbits under the effect of acupuncture anesthesia without premedication." I can vouch for the fact that it is possible to perform surgical procedures on rabbits without any anesthesia at all, having witnessed two such laparotomies

in Moscow. There I was told that rabbits do not feel pain.

To those readers who want to try acupuncture, Professor Matsumoto's book can be recommended as an unexcelled guide, but if they are seeking a critical account of this form of therapy they should look elsewhere.

B. RAYMOND FINK, M.D.
Department of Anesthesiology
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195

Serotonin: New Vistas. Advances in Biochemical Psychopharmacology. Volumes 10 and 11. EDITED BY E. COSTA, G. L. GESSA, AND M. SANDLER. New York, Raven Press, 1974. Price: \$18.00 each.

It is ironic that the designation "serotonin," the term originally given to the serum-borne vasoconstrictor substance identified as 5-hydroxytryptamine, has been retained although the primary significance of this monoamine is in the central nervous system. At least, so it would seem from the two-volume monograph on "Serotonin: New Vistas" which represents the proceedings of a symposium held in 1973.

The progress of serotonin research has closely paralleled that of catecholamine research. The first advance was the development of a fluorescent histochemical method which has permitted the elucidation of serotonergic pathways in brain and spinal cord. While their distribution is not as well-defined as that of the catecholaminergic neurons, it is now clear that some serotonin cell bodies are located in areas other than the raphe region, such as the reticular formation and mesencephalon. Mapping of the neurons and terminals has also progressed, aided by the newly discovered dihydroxytryptamines, such as 5,6- and 5,7-dihydroxytryptamine (5,6-DHT and 5,7-DHT). These labile indoleamines act much like 6-hydroxytryptamine does in the catecholaminergic systems, and have proven to be just as useful pharmacologic tools for serotonin research. Understandably, a good share of one of the volumes is devoted to the biochemical and pharmacologic properties of these dihydroxytryptamines. Other agonists, antagonists, or depletors (such as p-chlorophenylalanine and p-chloroamphetamine) in serotonin research are also liberally interspersed within these two volumes. The involvement of serotonin in the processes concerned with development of morphine tolerance and dependence has been reaffirmed by Way *et al.*; evidence for its lack of participation in the analgesic effects of morphine has been presented by Harvey *et al.* Thus, the contest continues. The complexity of the problem is magnified by the probability of interrelationships among cholinergic, dopaminergic, noradrenergic, as well as various