

Book Reviews

Acupuncture & Electro-Therapeutics Research. New York, Maxwell House, 1976. The International Journal. Y. Omura, Editor-in-Chief. Price: \$40.00, published quarterly.

We welcome the advent of *Acupuncture and Electro-Therapeutics Research, the International Journal*. The pragmatic use of acupuncture, like the pragmatic use of coca leaves, produced beneficial results long before it became realized in Western Medicine that a material anodyne lay hidden in the practice. A medium for the presentation of scientific studies in this important but often ill-served field, exploited by unregulated, uncritical practitioners, is much needed.

This new journal, with its outstanding interdisciplinary board of basic and clinical scientists, will help to bring light and order into a potentially exciting chapter in the study and management of pain.—B.R.F.

Parenteral Nutrition. BY F. W. AHNEFELD, C. BURRI, W. DICK, AND M. HALMAGYI. Berlin, Springer-Verlag, 1976. Pages: 200. Price: \$12.80.

An understanding of the patient's metabolic needs in various settings is assuming considerable clinical importance. The goals of this book are to supply increased understanding, to make recommendations for day-to-day practice by physicians, nurses and paramedical personnel, and to provide a stimulus for further scientific advancement. The goals are undoubtedly met. Many of the sections, particularly those on requirements and utilization of nutrients, pose questions about which little is known or data are very difficult to obtain.

Guidelines for dosage and application of parenteral nutrition in management of a variety of patients comprise six of the 22 lectures. For the most part, these are clearly written. An Appendix giving the proprietary names of nutrient solutions lists only those available in Europe. This is a distinct disadvantage to use of the publication as a clinical reference in this country.

The sections of metabolism, physiology and patho-biochemistry of stress require a reasonable recall of biochemistry, and without adequate background information, large gaps can appear between ideas. There are, however, three question-and-answer sessions called "summaries" that clarify controversial points and are quite helpful.

The illustrations and tables throughout are exceptionally well done. This undoubtedly reflects the fact that they are reproductions of slides used for a large audience and present a few main points very simply.

The book is inexpensive, short, and good reading even in interrupted segments, and should for these reasons be attractive to busy clinicians in a variety of specialties. A review of basic intermediary metabolism, however, would make much of the information presented early in the text easier to assimilate.

Anyone interested in or dealing with parenteral nutrition should find this a worthwhile purchase.

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The Cerebral Vessel Wall. EDITED BY J. CERVOS-NAVARRO, E. BETZ, F. MATAKAS, AND R. WULLENWEBER. New York, Raven Press, 1976. Pages: 273. Price: \$22.00.

The Cerebral Vessel Wall is based upon a symposium held in Berlin in March 1975. The volume presents in a well-edited and well-illustrated format an up-to-date collection of papers on cerebral microcirculatory morphology, physiology, and pharmacology. Much emphasis is placed on electron microscopic and histofluorescent investigations into the relationship between vascular smooth muscle and its accompanying neurologic network. Building on this strong morphology base, another group of contributors details functional responses of the vessel wall to various pharmacologic and chemical stimuli. About half of the papers in this section are already, to some extent, in print. While a central role of hydrogen ion concentration in regulating cerebral blood flow is acknowledged, the collective thrust of many of the contributions is toward the identification of other chemical mediators of cerebral vessel reactivity. A final section on blood-brain barrier changes due to arterial hypertension and osmotic changes completes the volume. This portion of the book, while providing a reasonable overview of recent blood-brain barrier investigations, seems out of place in the general context of the volume, and is largely a rehash of data available in the literature.

Despite these minor drawbacks, *The Cerebral Vessel Wall* will provide a concise, current, well-referenced review of current problems in cerebral microcirculatory physiology to those with new or established interests in this area of investigation.

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Clinical Neuropharmacology. Volume 1. EDITED BY H. L. KLAWANS. New York, Raven Press, 1976. Pages: 237. Price: \$18.50.

This book is the first volume of a series covering the broad subject of clinical neuropharmacology. The arrangement of chapters does not follow any obvious systematic order, but the contents of the book (nine chapters) fall into three parts. The editor states in the preface that he intends to publish material in the order in which it is received, in order to keep it up to date.

In the first part (Chapters 1, 2, 4, 6 and 9), the authors deal exclusively with the pathophysiology and pharmacology of well-known psychiatric and neurologic disorders, such as schizophrenia, spasticity, Gilles de la Tourette syndrome, Parkinson's disease, and migraine. Tardive dyskinesia syndrome, the main complication of the neuroleptic treatment of schizophrenia, is also discussed. The authors then deal with subjects such as the pros and cons of neuroleptic (chlorpromazine) treatment of schizophrenia, levodopa treatment of Parkinson's disease, and various aspects of migraine therapy.

Some chapters emphasize the authors' own work and beliefs. The material is well presented in clear language. The authors have succeeded in covering the subject, including recent work and up-to-date references. These chapters are intended for neurologists and psychiatrists. However, anesthesiologists can benefit as well by broadening their knowledge about common disorders in the field of neurology and psychiatry. They frequently face surgical patients who have such disorders and are treated with various medications discussed in the text. The important interactions between these drugs and common anesthetic agents are not discussed.