BOOK REVIEW


Volume 28 of the multidisciplinary series Progress in Brain Research deals with most of the central issues associated with the anticholinergic drugs. It includes papers presented at a symposium on "Anticholinergic Drugs and Brain Function in Animals and Man" which took place at the Fifth Meeting of the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologiaeum (C.I.N.P.) held in Washington in March 1966, under the chairmanship of Drs. Bradley and Fink.

Brain functions and behavior as reflected by the correlation and functional association between electroencephalogram (EEG) and behavior in wakefulness, drowsiness and sleep in animals and man are discussed. The loss of this correlation, or, the phenomenon of "dissociation" between these two variables induced by the anticholinergic drugs is covered. The underlying electrophysiological, biochemical, neuropharmacological, and behavioral changes are comprehensively, critically and condensely reviewed. Also, topics discussing cholinergic mechanisms and sleep-wakefulness cycle, psychotomimetic anticholinergies and brain acetylcholine and habituation are effectively presented.

Dr. Wikler's introduction deals with the functional significance of EEG, the hypothesized EEG synchronizing and desynchronizing mechanism in the preservation of "cortical homeostasis" and EEG-behavioral dissociation as a broad term. Dr. Jacobson, in the discussion, elaborates on the terms "muscarinic" and "nicotinic" actions of acetylcholine, and on their significance and relevance when dealing with peripheral versus central effects.

The highlights of all the papers in this volume and the arguments and issues that contribute to the controversy concerning dissociation of EEG and behavior with anticholinergic drugs are elegantly summarized by Dr. Fink, who concluded that "It is probable that with additional study in man, association of EEG and behavior will become better defined, and the question may change from conditions of dissociation to questions of the relevant behaviors which may be directly related to specific electrophysiological measures; and, conversely, the specific electrophysiological changes accompanying significant behaviors in man."

This volume on anticholinergic drugs represents a valuable contribution to a problem of experimental and clinical significance and is a worthy addition to the preceding 27 volumes of the series "Progress in Brain Research." It is a pleasure to read this instructive and stimulating book.

Naim Khazan, Ph.D.

NOTICE

Due to increased costs of manufacturing, and in fact of all phases of operation, it becomes necessary to advance the annual subscription price for the Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology, as of January, 1970, to $20.00 and for postage outside the U.S.A. to $2.50. Single copies will be $6.00 each.