

equates with non-dominant and dominant cerebral hemisphere function respectively).

To my mind, his aim "to sketch a psychobiological basis for art's contribution to ego growth and reality enhancement" is not achieved because, despite encompassing a wide range of ideas, he does remain tied down to the theoretical focus of psychoanalysis. Nevertheless, this is a fascinating work, difficult to summarise in a short review, which includes clinical vignettes, detailed literary analysis, commentary on works of music, sculpture and painting, and much more. For interested readers this is well worth getting hold of, although perhaps not for the departmental library.

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Alzheimer's Disease: New Treatment Strategies. Edited by ZAVEN S. KHACHATURIAN and JOHN P. BLASS. New York: Marcel Dekker Inc. 1992. 256 pp. \$99.75 (USA & Canada), \$114.50 (all other countries).

This book, as the editors acknowledge in their preface, is an indication of the burgeoning interest in Alzheimer's disease and the development of new treatments which have occurred over the last decade.

It is the first of an intended series reviewing subjects at the forefront of research into Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The aim is to cover topics as yet not included in the mainstream of current research but which, in the opinion of the editors, seem likely to do so in the future.

This current volume discusses the scientific basis of approaches to treatment of Alzheimer's disease, based on a conference sponsored by the National Institute on Ageing. It covers five areas: the current state of drug therapy and the problem with clinical drug trials; new approaches to drug development; neurotropic agents; anti-inflammatory drugs; and miscellaneous innovative areas.

The format is clearly laid out and well illustrated and fulfils the editors' description of covering topics outside of the mainstream of current research. As such it is, in places, not an easy book to read and some basic knowledge is essential. Their aim to draw together less well publicised research areas is laudable and valuable but also may prove a potential flaw in including areas that will not subsequently prove fertile research fields.

Overall, although it usefully draws together less mainstream research it will, because of its subject matter and price, be of interest mainly to specialists within the field rather than to the general reader.

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Central Serotonin Receptors and Psychotropic Drugs.

Edited by CHARLES A. MARSDEN and DAVID J. HEAL. London: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1992. 321 pp.

Of the recent books on the role of serotonin in psychiatric disorders, this book stands out. It is highly focused and is concerned specifically with serotonin receptors in the brain. It clearly achieves its aim to carefully evaluate the role of serotonin receptor subtypes in physiology and, from experimental and preliminary clinical studies, to predict their contribution to the development of drugs of psychiatric importance. Leading scientists, including distinguished clinicians, provide critical overviews on 5-HT-receptor classification, neurochemistry, behavioural pharmacology, electrophysiology, and autoradiography of 5-HT-receptor distribution and their dysfunction in psychiatric disorders.

The application of this experimental knowledge to drug development is the focus of the second part of the book with chapters on the 5-HT receptor in modulation of aversion, treatment of anxiety, schizophrenia, depression, cognitive dysfunction, ingestive behaviour, and addictive behaviour, ending with a concise futuristic assessment of their functional importance and clinical value.

The editors should be commended for producing such a fine text which may well become classic reading for pre-clinical and clinical scientists in their voyages into the galaxy of serotonin receptors.

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When Illness Strikes the Leader. The Dilemma of the Captive King. By JERROLD M. POST and ROBERT S. ROBINS. Yale University Press. 1993. 243 pp. £19.95 (US \$30.00).

The two authors, who are political psychologists, have conducted a seminar away from the ward or consulting room on a theme that clinical and psychohistorians ignore: the effects of illness on the struggle for power between political rivals and on the interplay between the sick leader (the "captive king") and the inner circle, which can become a captive court.

A physician's or psychiatrist's simple goal should be diagnosis and prompt treatment. Yet those in the court who serve the captive king may depart from standard procedure. They are torn by conflicting loyalties to their patients as individuals in special positions, to the institution of the president, premier or dictator, and even to the public. Illness, inevitably perhaps, is minimised, even concealed, by the inner circle when