answer, and the 'goodies' who are not afraid of uncertainty and gambling, are laboured at length in long case histories and the same points seem to be made over and over again.

This battle has surely now been fought and won, and only the most reactionary would still seek to contest the central issues here. I fear this book just does not deliver enough new material or intellectual sophistication to justify its place in a psychiatrist's library, and even the probabilistic paradigm does not lessen my opinion on this issue – but then maybe I just cannot bear doubt.

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Schizophrenia Research. Advances in Neuropsychiatry and Psychopharmacology Volume 1. Edited by C. A. TAMMINGA and C. S. SCHULZ. New York: Raven Press. 1991. 391 pp. $150.00.

In their preface, the editors of this book state that the goal of the volume is to facilitate the application of current neuroscience and psychosocial knowledge and techniques to schizophrenia research. They say that their intention was to reflect the current status of scientific information in several areas in this field which represent the best in scientific direction and discoveries, and not to provide a comprehensive review of the generality of research in schizophrenia. They have succeeded in these aims. This book is interesting and exciting. It provides new data about experiments which are at the very forefront of research in this field, and it offers reviews of issues which are highly relevant but which are probably not familiar to those who are not working in these particular areas themselves.

The section on the biochemistry of schizophrenia contains chapters on the biochemical characterisation of D_1 and D_2 dopamine receptors, phencyclidine NMDA receptor interaction, a review of genetic linkage studies of schizophrenia, an account of the difficulties of assessing gene expression, and a description of experiments concerning molecular approaches to neuroleptic action. All of these are interesting, as indeed are the six sections on the neurobiology and physiology of schizophrenia. These include an account of the neuroplasticity of mesoelencephalic dopamine neurons at network and receptor level, a review of the relevance of neuropeptides for schizophrenia, and chapters on the limbic system and neuropharmacological techniques in the molecular biology of schizophrenia.

This section is followed by five chapters on behaviour and schizophrenia which include accounts of the currently important issue of the neuropsychology of schizophrenia and a fascinating animal model for childhood autism. The excellent chapter on stress and schizophrenia provides experimental data showing the effects of stress in a subgroup of schizophrenic patients, and suggests hypotheses of the neurochemical basis of pharmacological methods of its management.

The later sections of the book concern the issue of defining the boundaries of schizophrenia (where the importance of this area of work for genetic studies receives appropriate emphasis), psychosocial treatments, and pharmacological treatments. The psychosocial treatment chapters review the area fully and describe ongoing experiments which are of considerable interest. The chapters on pharmacological treatments describe the results of treatment trials of some atypical psychotics and also offer accounts of studies of non-compliance with neuroleptic treatment, and of the effects of various neuroleptics upon indices of neurotransmission.

This would be a worthwhile purchase for those who are actively engaged in schizophrenia research. The creative ideas described here will suggest new avenues of inquiry. The book will be less useful as a reference work for a library. The experiments described are often incomplete and the experience of 100 years of study of the disorder Kraepelin described as dementia praecox suggests that many areas of research will not fulfil their early promise.

This volume will date rapidly, but for reading in 1992 and perhaps even 1993, it can be highly recommended.

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Current and Future Trends in Anticonvulsant, Anxiety and Stroke Therapy: Progress in Clinical and Biological Research, Volume 361. Edited by BRIAN MELDRUM and MICHAEL WILLIAMS. New York: Wiley-Liss Ltd. 1990. 555 pp. US$142.00.

This multiauthor text is the edited proceedings of a symposium held in America in 1988 focusing on new areas of central nervous system drug development. It is this drug development theme which ties together the otherwise rather disparate areas of epilepsy, anxiety and stroke therapy. Over two-thirds of the contributors work within the pharmaceutical industry. Most chapters are orientated towards basic science, and much of the content relates to receptor and transmitter pharmacology. The clinical content is only such as to provide background information for the non-clinical research worker.

Each therapeutic area forms one section of the book. Within each section, the chapters are, by and large, authoritative and interesting, and overall the book gives a good account of current research thinking in these therapeutic areas. The anxiety section also includes chapters on obsessive–compulsive disorder and on antiaggressive drugs which have been dubbed 'serenics'. The section on new drug treatment approaches to cerebral ischaemia and trauma is an interesting read for psychopharmacologists who may not have kept up to