

recommended. In comparison, the critical study of psychoanalytic concepts and the brief discussion on religion contained in Harry Guntrip's book, 'Personality Structure and Human Interaction', although written over twenty years ago, remains much more stimulating and illuminating.

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Advances in Human Psychopharmacology: A Research Annual. Vol. 2. Edited by GRAHAM D. BURROWS and JOHN S. WERRY. 1981. Greenwich, Connecticut: Jai Press. Pp 341. \$38.50.

This book is one of a series of publications designed to keep the research worker in psychopharmacology abreast of current developments. This particular volume concentrates on certain expanding research areas; dopamine and opioid receptors and their clinical significance, the management of severe psychiatric disorders in children and the measurement of psychological functioning in psychopharmacology. There are also chapters on the genetic aspects of response to lithium (Mendlewicz), the psychotropic effects of anticonvulsant drugs (Trimble and Richens), sex hormones (Dennerstein and Burrows) and a review of the regulations effecting research in psychopharmacology in the United States (Reatig).

Most research workers are blinkered experts rather than polymaths and will only be interested in one or two chapters of the book. Each chapter really stands alone and covers the subject in the same way as the articles in *Pharmacological Reviews*. Those by Fulton and her colleagues on dopamine and schizophrenia, Hindmarch on the difficulties in measuring and interpreting the effects of psychotropic drugs on brain function, Werry's review of the childhood psychoses and Trimble and Richen's chapter are admirably comprehensive and carry authority. Reatig's chapter maps the minefield of hazards that need to be overcome before any psychopharmacological research can take place in the United States, but will be of limited value to non-American readers.

The strengths of this type of book are also its weaknesses. By concentrating on a few small areas of research the editors and contributors can write well referenced detailed reviews that are not available elsewhere but, by doing this, they have to neglect a great deal of equally relevant research endeavour.

Perhaps if the series continues to be published annually as planned this lack of integration may be remedied.

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Age and the Pharmacology of Psychoactive Drugs. Edited by ALLEN RASKIN, DONALD S. ROBINSON and JEROME LEVINE. New York: Elsevier North-Holland. 1982. Pp 212. US \$48.00.

Non-Tricyclic and Non-Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors. Edited by H. E. LEHMANN. Basel: S. Karger. 1982. Pp 212. SFr. 115.

The first of these books concerns the pharmacology of psychotropic drugs at the extremes of age. The earlier chapters concern basic pharmacological topics and the later deal with clinical aspects. The basic chapters are well-researched and well written. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on drug entry into the brain. The clinical section in addition to pointing out the hazards and difficulties of drug treatment in the aged discusses the use of psychotropic drugs in children. It is refreshing to find a series of articles on such topics in which the defects as well as the merits in the available evidence are freely discussed and the conclusions drawn do not at all exceed the material presented. Those who may be inclined to the view that while the mechanisms of the differing effects of drugs at different ages are of theoretical interest, the practical issues of dose adjustment to take account of age are surely well understood and generally practised, will be shaken by the clear evidence presented in the last chapter that this is certainly not the case in Sweden. This book therefore provides practically useful as well as theoretically interesting information and I consider it a worthwhile purchase.

The opening chapters of the second book describe the actions and effects of a wide range of new antidepressant drugs. It is inevitable that some of this information is already somewhat dated but it seems regrettable that the drugs are presented in so uniformly favourable a light. One chapter in particular is written in style reminiscent of the advertising copy of the cosmetics industry. I should be interested to know how some of the authors reconcile the views they express here with their clinical experience. The later chapters are more balanced and some are good. Despite the value of some of the information this book contains I could not, in the present financial climate, recommend it for purchase.

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