S.W. Matthesse and S.S. Kety (eds.) Catecholamines and Schizophrenia
Based on a symposium on ‘Catecholamines and Their Enzymes in the Neuropathology of Schizophrenia’, held in Strasbourg (France), 1973, the present book contains 52 scientific contributions of this symposium. Under the general topics: I. Stereotyped Behaviour and Amphetamine Psychosis, II. Antipsychotic Drugs and Catecholamine Synapses, III. Biogenic Amines and Behaviour, IV. Chemical Neuropathology of Schizophrenia, V. Recent Advances in Histological Technology, VI. Enzymology and Regulation of Catecholamine Enzymes, outstanding experts in neurochemistry, psychiatry, biochemistry and neurobiology have presented their newest research results and discussed the role of biochemistry for the understanding of schizophrenia. This book certainly represents a world-wide view of modern science on the role and importance of neurotransmitters and their alterations in the central nervous system of schizophrenic patients. It is a most valuable source of information for all interested researchers who could not participate in the Strasbourg symposium.

D.A. Kalbhen, Bonn

A.L. Bloom discussed recent pathophysiological studies on factor VIII deficiency, including hereditary deficiencies and the present status of the nature of factor VIII. The most important and serious hereditary effect in the clotting system, hemophilia is described by C.R. Rizza. This article covers the clinical manifestation and diagnosis as well as the treatment of bleeding complications and pain attacks with special emphasis on therapy with factor VIII concentrates and other therapeutic measures. R.M. Hardisty classified the platelet-related hemorrhagic diatheses: defects of adhesion on collagen and the subendothelium, defects in the release reaction and the ATP induced aggregation. Furthermore, he discussed the platelet function in various diseases and pointed out that the patho-genesis of acquired platelet function disturbances is less well understood than the hereditary malfunctions. A.A. Sharp contributed to the diagnosis and therapy of disseminated intravasal clotting (DIC) and emphasized that DIC is a polyetiological rather than a homogeneous disease. The discussion of the components and functions of the fibrinolytic system and the article on the chemical structure of fibrinogen and fibrin degradation products are less clinically orientated.

In summary, this is an issue which precisely and very clearly informs about the developments during the last decade. The list of references is up to date until 1977.

E. Hiller, Tübingen

British Medical Bulletin
Vol. 33, No. 3, 1977
The British Council, London 1977
The September 1977 issue of the ‘British Medical Bulletin’ deals with hemostasis. In 15 reviews it summarizes known facts and recent developments. The most important new findings in blood
The central function of clotting are based on biochemical studies which clarify the relationship and interactions of a number of clotting factors. M.P. Esnouf described the central function of clotting in this context. It is essential for pharmaceutical laboratories of drug manufacturers, drug stores and governmental or academic institutions to use specific analytical methods for identification and quantitative determination of therapeutic agents. The author of the present handbook of drug analysis has successfully arranged an almost complete collection of approved analytical procedures for about 600 drugs. Besides a very useful introductory description of the general principles of drug analysis, the main part of the book contains a detailed listing of groups of compounds with all specific methods for their identification and quantification. The analytical methods include thin-layer chromatography, gas chromatography, high-pressure liquid chromatography and UV spectroscopy with all characteristic data of the listed drugs. Gravimetric, colorimetric, fluorimetric, polarographic and titrimetric assays may be applied for the quantitative determination of drugs. Structural formulae and physicochemical properties of compounds are included in the description. A very extensive collection of references increases the usefulness of this handbook of drug analysis for pharmacists, pharmacologists, toxicologists and many other scientists as well as for students of pharmacy. D.A. Kalbhen, Bonn

L. Weinstein (ed.)
Teratology and Congenital Malformations
US $234.00 (vol. 1-3)

The voluminous publication in question consists of three volumes and comprises about 15,000 teratologic publications of the past 25 years. In the first volume the publications are arbitrarily stringed together. They are labeled with a code number, complete title, and bibliographical data. In the 2nd and 3rd volumes, key words and one-lined short informations refer to the code numbers. The last 90 pages of the 3rd volume consist of an author index with corresponding code numbers.

Can such an extensive publication be used in practice? If one looks for drug-induced renal cystic diseases, the key word ‘cystic disease’ leads to only one reference. From the ‘Deutsches Institut für Medizinische Dokumentation und Information’ (DIMDI) we received 13 references, 10 of which had been published after 1970. The key word ‘cystic’ again leads to one reference about polycystic malformations of the kidney, and the key word ‘kidney’ leads to three questionable references. From DIMDI we received more than 200. Perhaps the authors think polycystic kidneys not to be malformation – for parents whose children are born with cystic kidneys and then die, they are malformations.

It is to be questioned whether it is nowadays still possible to review the literature by headings. An effective review of the literature is – according to my opinion – only guaranteed if, in addition to the heading, essential key words are given and if they are evaluated.
H. Weicker, Bonn
E.S. Gershon, R.H. Belmaker, S.S. Kety and
M. Rosenbaum (eds.)
The Impact of Biology on Modern Psychiatry
This volume is based on the Proceedings of an international symposium held 1975 in Jerusalem,
Israel, where a list of distinguished speakers from laboratories throughout the world presented
their scientific papers and discussed the current status of biological psychiatry. Under the main
topics (1) Neurochemical Studies in Human Psychopathology; (2) Catecholamines and
Behaviour, and (3) Genetic Studies in Psychiatry this volume covers 19 papers with a large
number of references. Clinical, experimental and biological aspects of mental diseases reflect the
interdisciplinary character of up-to-date research in biological psychiatry. This most informative
and stimulating book is carefully edited and will certainly be of great interest to many scientists
in the field of neurochemistry, neurobiology, pharmacology and psychiatry.
D.A. Kalbhen, Bonn
120
Book Reviews
Multiple Sclerosis
In the past two decades we learned much about the etiology and the pathogenesis of multiple
sclerosis. Numerous British scientists contributed to the winning of new facts. Consequently, the
14 original papers in question represent a compressed but easy-to-read survey of our present
knowledge of multiple sclerosis and the resulting consequences for hospitals.
Though a lot of immunological and biochemical progresses have been made, diagnosis and
classification are still difficult. A laboratory test for multiple sclerosis does not exist. The chapter
about the epidemiology is fascinating, though the main progress consists in the association with
the HLA groups. Two chapters deal with the pathology and the pathophysiology, another two
deal with the problems of virus etiology and virus antibodies, respectively. Result: slow virus
disease or, more likely, virus-induced immune disease. It corresponds to the growing importance
of these thoughts that four chapters are devoted to immunology and one to histocompatibility
antigens. The discussion about the role of the unsaturated fatty acids in multiple sclerosis is very
important: therapeutic possibilities and consequences are tiny. An excellent information.
H. Weicker, Bonn
J.G. Wilson and F.C. Fraser (eds.) Handbook of Teratology
In 1971, Warkany published an excellent monograph on malformations of children. Now the first
2 volume (4 volumes are planned) of a ‘Handbook of Teratology’ came out. They deal with the
common fundamentals, the etiology, the mechanisms of development and the pathogenesis of
malformations. It is a typical publication of several authors. After a historical view, proven and
possible reasons leading to malformations are discussed, i.e., mutagenic substances, radiation
and other physical factors, infectious and nutritional diseases, embryotoxic drugs, environmental
chemicals, metabolic diseases of the mother, atmospherics, and extreme temperatures. A similar
variety is used to describe the pathogenesis.
As a result an exceptionally informative reference-book grew. It presents the same usefulness for clinicians, pharmacologists and biochemists. The teratology was a Cinderella of medicine until the thalidomide catastrophe. The published volumes show that in the meantime teratology has been accepted as a science. It has become more profound and its application has been extended.

H. Weicker, Bonn