

TRANSCRANIAL DOPPLER. 1992. Edited by David W. Newell and Rune Aaslid. Published by Raven Press. 277 pages. \$180 Cdn. approx.

Although carotid Doppler techniques have been in clinical practice for over 20 years, and transcranial Doppler (TCD) for 10 years, the method has not become respectable until recently. Unfortunately, the stampede to set up Doppler laboratories in the past few years may prove more detrimental to the credibility of the technique than the previous decades in the wilderness.

The editors of this book on transcranial Doppler (one of whom, Aaslid, invented the technique) have assembled a team of experts in the field to produce what is undoubtedly the best state-of-the-art, readable hand book on this topic. There are chapters on all the major advances in TCD, including the basics of the technique, the rapidly proliferating uses in research in cerebral haemodynamics, and its clinical value. It is written largely by clinicians, mainly practising neurologists or neurosurgeons, and embraces all aspects from subarachnoid haemorrhage, to brain death, as well as a multitude of paediatric disorders.

The style is fairly even, though sometimes the prose is stilted and curious in cases where the authors are not primarily English speaking. Controversial issues are generally treated as such, though the bias of the author shows through, and there is no frank misinformation. A number of issues remain blatantly unanswered. Similar to the situation of carotid endarterectomy (which languished for decades until a decisive study of a small number of patients proved its efficacy) the value of TCD monitoring in carotid surgery remains unsolved. The technique is still widely used as an operative monitoring device, especially in Europe, yet most peri-operative strokes are embolic and not haemodynamic.

It is an expensive book, but is of high quality for a pleasing layout, and there are plenty of clear illustrations which make for easy reading. This book can be read by a wide audience including technicians and those with interest but no knowledge, and for 1992 at least, it remains the best in the field.

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HEADACHE AND DEPRESSION: SEROTONIN PATHWAYS AS A COMMON CLUE. 1991. 1st Edition. Edited by Giuseppe Nappi, Giorgio Bono, Giorgio Sandrini, Emilia Martignoni and Giuseppe Micieli. Published by Raven Press, Ltd., New York. 329 pages. \$143 Cdn. approx.

Headache and depression are among the most common afflictions of mankind. This book tells us that 75% of the general population experience a headache at least once a year, and depression is a common illness for which patients visit their family doctor. Furthermore, it is argued that the two disorders occur in the same individuals more often than would be expected by chance. The hypothesis of the editors is that these two disorders may involve the same neurotransmitters and neuromodulators — serotonin, norepinephrine, dopamine and endorphin — and responsivity to the same drugs such as tricyclic antidepressants and serotonergic agents.

These similarities form the basis for the development of this multi-authored book. The book contains 30 brief articles (10

pages average), written by authors from a variety of departments of neurology, psychiatry and pharmacology, both in Europe and North America. The editors are all from the Headache Centre, Department of Neurology, C. Mondino Foundation, University of Pavia, Italy. Topics addressed include the neurochemistry of 5-hydroxytryptamine pathways, the association of chronic headache with mood disorders, periodicity of affective and cluster headache syndromes, light therapy and fall/winter depressions, the relationship of the menstrual cycle to mood and headache, as well as discussions of the effects of serotonergic drugs on headache and depression.

Unfortunately the quality of discussion, as sometimes occurs in multi-authored books, is uneven. A number of authors present their own research, yet acknowledge the data as the result of only pilot or preliminary studies. The reader is thus left with some question as to the confidence that can be placed in the conclusions. There is significant repetition with, for instance, several chapters reviewing the association of serotonin with depression. Although the editors tell us that headache and depression arise in the same population frequently, the book is lacking in a clear account of the epidemiology of the co-occurrence of these two disorders.

In places the book is unevenly edited. One chapter on the psychodynamics of headache tells the reader, at some length, about the early psychological life of migraine headache patients and tension headache patients and how they differ. Yet no account is provided of the research methods used to form these conclusions. This reader would have preferred some discussion of methodology as assurance that reasonable experimental protocols (blinding of investigators, systematic interviewing techniques, etc.) were followed.

Unfortunately, I cannot recommend this book to either the clinician or investigator. The former will look in vain for a clearly enunciated diagnostic and therapeutic approach to these patients. The latter will find that the book quickly dates as many of the studies are completed and published in final form elsewhere.

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TEXTBOOK OF CLINICAL NEUROPHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS. 1992. 2nd Edition. Edited by H.L. Klawans, C.G. Goetz and C.M. Tanner. Published by Raven Press, New York. 666 pages. \$120 Cdn.

This is the second edition of a textbook which began life as the work of four authors in a single university neurology department, and which has become a multi-authored compilation of information about neurological therapeutics. Psychopharmacology is excluded, but most other types of disease likely to be encountered by neurologists are covered, including infectious diseases.

Two opening chapters discuss pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and synaptic transmission in general terms. The material about pharmacokinetics is similar in content and depth to what is found in most standard pharmacology textbooks, whereas the information about synaptic function is more specifically related to neuropharmacology. The remaining 46 chapters consider individual diseases or syndromes.