cerebral circulation. Such mechanisms are likely to be important in clarifying both the way in which angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors produce their effects on blood pressure, and in identifying the cause of their adverse effects. Consequently, the time is right for a comprehensive review of the subject. Starr and Whalley are certainly comprehensive: they discuss the central mechanisms of blood pressure control and how ACE inhibitors may act within the central nervous system to produce their effects; the trophic actions of angiotensin II and related molecules are also discussed in a separate chapter. The influence of ACE inhibitors on the various components of cerebral autoregulation are outlined, and finally there is a chapter on the effect of ACE inhibitors on cognitive function. However, a detailed reading of the book conjures up the image of a large individual trying to get to sleep in a cold room under a light blanket: the area to be covered is immense, but the means are inadequate. The authors are on the whole quite uncritical of the papers they include. For example, much of the evidence they cite in support of the central actions of angiotensin comes from studies using intracerebroventricular injections (ICV). Whereas they argue that many central sites involved in blood pressure control are situated around the ventricles and often are devoid of a blood-brain barrier, this in no way means that these sites are the sole location of the actions of ICV injected agents. Many cells have processes which abut onto the ventricular surface, whence retrograde uptake may occur and produce actions in cell groups quite remote from the periventricular area. Most neurophysiologists thus tend to prefer the effects of local injection into a defined nucleus usually in more physiologically meaningful doses than achieved by ICV injection in studying the effects of a molecule. In addition, their evident lack of first hand experience in many areas into which their discussion has taken them leads them to make ex cathedra statements which are often irritating even when they are not completely wrong. This is particularly apparent in their discussion of the control of cerebral blood flow. Statements such as: "PaO_2 effects are central to understanding the observation that women tend to have higher CBFs than their male counterparts; this is due to the fact that women have lower hematocrits and CBF is inversely proportional to oxygen transport capacity," are erroneously simplistic and mislead the reader. Most would agree that other, more important factors are involved. Many of the sections are rambling and add nothing to the topic suggested by the title of the book. The final chapter on ACE inhibitors and cognitive function is a case in point. It is 17 pages long and, apart for the conclusion, contains only 3 sentences relating directly to ACE inhibitors. The conclusion itself merely implies that the effects of these agents on cognitive function is unclear. Lack of editorial oversight also is apparent in the figures which are often unnecessary or badly labeled (Fig. 6). The authors should also be informed that the EDRF-related agent is nitric oxide and not nitrous oxide as repeatedly mentioned. On the whole, a not very satisfactory effort.

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Die Epilepsien. – W. Fröscher and F. Vassella (Eds.) (Walter de Gruyter, Berlin, 1994, 813 p., Price: DM 448.00)

English has become the lingua franca in the world of science and medicine. It is therefore most unusual, to use this international journal for the review of a book written in a language other than English. The reason for making such an exception lies in the outstanding qualities found in this work.

One has to refrain in this exceptional situation from a detailed review. Let it be said that this is a comprehensive book; edited by an adult (WF) and pediatric (FV) epileptologist so that both important sections of epileptology are equally represented. A special highlight is the enormous chapter 7 (with countless subsections) on the clinical aspects of epileptic seizures and epilepsy syndromes. The cast of contributors includes numerous authors from outside the German-speaking regions. The EEG is widely represented in tracings of fine quality; a special EEG chapter was contributed by the late Dr. G. Dumermuth. All forms of modern diagnostic methods are aptly presented. The chapters dealing with pharmacotherapy are excellent and include the most recent generations of antiepileptics. As to the inevitable shortcomings of such a monumental work: (a) more space could be allotted to neurosurgical treatment and presurgical EEG evaluation, and (b) the presentation of the neurophysiological basis of epileptogenesis would benefit from a more international flavor.

The editors of this work have planned and orchestrated this multifaceted book in a superb scholarly manner. The result is an impressive blend of modern international orientation and historical national tradition.

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Clinical neuropsychology of attention. – A.H. van Zomeren and W.N. Brouwer (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1994, 260 p., Price: £35.00)

There has been a recent plethora of monographs dealing with topics such as attention and consciousness. Such subjects used to be non-entities under the powerful influence of behaviorism and its strongest proponents, John B. Watson and B.F. Skinner. A few decades have sufficed to convince the scientific world that these terms are not anathema any longer.

This is an eminently clinically oriented book. Following a discussion of theories of attention (with a delightful photograph of the revered Donald Broadbent on his motorcycle), there are very well written chapters on anatomophysiology of attention, head injury, Alzheimer-type dementia, Parkinson disease and epilepsy (with two EEG figures, one of them barely readable). The assessment of attention, behavioral/social consequences of attentional deficits and their rehabilitation comprise the final chapters.

This excellent book is most warmly recommended for clinical neurophysiologists and neurologists. It should be kept in mind that the neurocognitive functions will be one of our great challenges in the years and decades to come.

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