

little more than banners often waved. Certainly much more work must be done before we can assess the relative merits of special education and mainstreaming. Similarly, while most experienced workers agree that the general level of care in many large state institutions for the retarded is very bad, there are simply too many unanswered questions to warrant an unequivocal stance in favor of deinstitutionalization. While there is some evidence that the new caretaking settings for retarded are more humane than the large state schools we would like to depopulate, what evidence is there that the development of the retarded is superior in these new settings? What exactly are the cost implications of a deinstitutionalization policy? As can be inferred from Edgerton's chapter, the greatest danger in such a policy is the potential it holds for making the lives of the 200,000 retarded individuals now in the large institutions even worse in the future than they are today.

The concept of advocacy for the mentally retarded appears in various forms throughout the book. Although several government agencies have attempted to incorporate such an activity into ongoing programs, the concept badly needs some operational definition, for it has been exceedingly difficult to translate into action. In the meantime, the reviewer will continue to regard the activities of Elizabeth Boggs, America's premier advocate for the retarded, as providing a model on which such a definition could be based. The case studies presented in her chapter in this book will be invaluable reading for those researchers and service delivery people who are continually perplexed by the myriad decisions made in that land of Oz called Washington.

Given the rich discussion of so many major issues pertaining to mental retardation, this book could have benefited greatly from a synthesizing chapter. The final chapter, by Etzioni and Richardson, simply does not deliver what it promises. My suggestion is that the fine introductory chapter by Begab be read last. Begab touches on just about every issue to be found in this book, and his chapter can be used as the organizing rubric for the important themes appearing throughout the book. Setting aside carping concerns, I can report that a close reading of this book made me feel much more knowledgeable about the past, present, and future of the mental retardation field. More I cannot ask.

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Neuroendocrine Systems

Subcellular Mechanisms in Reproductive Neuroendocrinology. Papers from a symposium, Jamaica Plain, Mass., Oct. 1975. F. NAFTOLIN, K. J. RYAN, and I. J. DAVIES, Eds. Elsevier, New York, 1976. xii, 530 pp., illus. \$59.75.

Even to one peripherally interested in the mechanisms of neuroendocrine control of reproduction, this field clearly is not one in which neatly solved problems abound. In fact, it appears to be a bewildering array of very basic unanswered questions: What cell types are responsible for the synthesis of hypophysiotropic hormones? What is their synthetic machinery? What are their afferent connections? What other types of input do they have in terms of control of hormone synthesis and release? If the questions that are basic to the understanding of subcellular mechanisms in neuronal and endocrine systems in general are added to this list, such as those concerning the importance of cyclic nucleotides, prostaglandins, and metal ions, the confusion is compounded still further. This fine collection of reviews helps to bring forth what order there is in the chaos.

Relationships between steroid hormones and neuroendocrine tissues are treated in a particularly thorough manner. The group of chapters on endogenous steroid levels in neuroendocrine tissues, specific steroid binding, and subcellular distribution of receptors provides the physicochemical and architectural framework for the establishment of functional correlates. Taken as a group, the several chapters on steroid metabolism in neuroendocrine tissues constitute a thorough review of the concept of circulating steroid hormones as prohormones to be converted to specific functional forms by biotransformation in the target tissues.

Elucidation of the mechanisms that control the biosynthesis and release of hypothalamic hypophysiotropic hormones has been painfully slow. It is becoming increasingly clear that there are two major obstacles to investigations of these mechanisms. First, the peptides are present in quantities that are minute even by today's standards of microanalysis, and their presence in a milieu that contains a large number of amino acids and peptides makes their isolation difficult. Second, active systems for biodegradation of the peptides appear to be ubiquitous in neuronal tissues. In successive chapters, Seymour Reichlin makes a strong case for the use of exhaustive purification procedures and

control of peptide degradation when studying the biosynthesis of the hormones and Neville Marks provides a biochemical definition of the various peptide hormone degradation processes.

Also included in the volume are several seldom-reviewed topics with broad implications. For example, a chapter by Alan Poisner on the role of calcium in neuroendocrine systems brings into focus the importance of this metal not only for its role in hormone release, but also for its involvement in intracellular transport and storage mechanisms.

If any fault can be found with the volume, it is simply that the title is unnecessarily restrictive. Neuroendocrine systems have been treated quite broadly in the volume, and a wealth of information on systems not normally considered to be directly involved in reproduction is included.

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Acoustics and Vibration Progress. Vol. 2. R. W. B. Stephens and H. G. Leventhall, Eds. Chapman and Hall, London, 1977 (U.S. distributor, Halsted [Wiley], New York). viii, 204 pp., illus. \$22.50. *To order this book circle No. 424 on Readers' Service Card.*

Adolescence and Youth in Prospect. Papers from a colloquium, Amsterdam, Sept. 1975. John P. Hill and Franz J. Möns, Eds. IPC Science and Technology Press, Guildford, Surrey, England, 1977. viii, 218 pp. £6.80.

Advances in Librarianship. Vol. 7. Melvin J. Voigt and Michael H. Harris, Eds. Academic Press, New York, 1977. xvi, 348 pp. \$22.50. *To order this book circle No. 425 on Readers' Service Card.*

Am Ende aller Religion? Ein Streitgespräch. Nikolaus Lobkowicz and Anselm Hertz. A. Fromm, Osnabrück, 1976. 88 pp. Paper, DM 8. Texte + Thesen, 77.

Anthropology. Carol R. Ember and Melvin Ember. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., ed. 2, 1977. xx, 512 pp., illus. \$14.95.

Anthropology and History in Yucatán. Grant D. Jones, Ed. University of Texas Press, Austin, 1977. xxiv, 344 pp. + plates. \$16.95.

Bibliography of Liquid Column Chromatography 1971-1973 and Survey of Applications. Zdeněk Deyl and Jan Kopecký. Elsevier, New York, 1976. xx, 1136 pp. Paper, \$103.50. *Journal of Chromatography*, supplementary volume No. 6.