

cells following the binding of agonists. Such studies range from investigations of changes in ionic conductance produced by the interaction of acetylcholine with a single receptor in skeletal muscle to measurements of changes in the synthesis of cyclic nucleotides produced by incubating slices of brain with different neurotransmitters.

Chemical Pharmacology of the Synapse provides an invaluable guide to these and other studies in this rapidly expanding field. Triggles and Triggles have accomplished an impressive task in that they recount the history of the major concepts of drug-receptor interaction and discuss many of the most recent findings on the subject. Characteristic of the global approach taken in the book, the first chapter consists of a review of the anatomy of the synapse and the chemistry of transmitter synthesis, storage, release, and inactivation. As it is elsewhere in the book, the full extent of biological diversity is discussed, the differences being presented not as mere curiosities but as indicators of important biological problems. For instance, Triggles and Triggles discuss the implications of the fact that the neuromuscular distance in vascular smooth muscle is much larger than it is in skeletal muscle. (The difference in some cases amounts to two orders of magnitude.)

It is not surprising that in such a condensed review of synaptic morphology and neurochemistry some errors have crept in. For instance, Mueller *et al.* did not show that reserpine induces the formation of tyrosine hydroxylase in vitro, but instead showed that in vivo administration of reserpine produces a delayed increase in tyrosine hydroxylase activity as assayed under optimal conditions in vitro. Such defects are minor, however, and the chapter provides a useful background for the later discussion of the quantitative aspects of drug-receptor interaction. For example, in the discussion in chapters 2 and 3 of dose-response curves and structure-activity relations at adrenergic receptors, Triggles and Triggles discuss at some length the complications introduced in such analyses by the norinephrine uptake systems.

For each topic considered the authors review the findings from studies of a number of receptor systems and in many cases present the original data in easily readable figures and tables. Equally useful are the extensive bibliographies that follow each chapter and the list of related articles that have appeared since completion of the manuscript.

The book will serve well both as an advanced textbook of neuropharmacology

for graduate students and as a reference book for workers in the field. The authors manage to cover a large number of subjects and still deal with most of them in some depth. Along the way they succeed in pointing out to the reader that a variety of fascinating questions remain to be solved.

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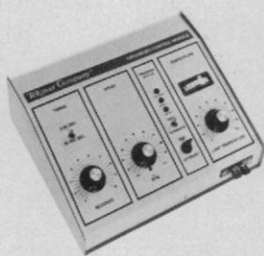
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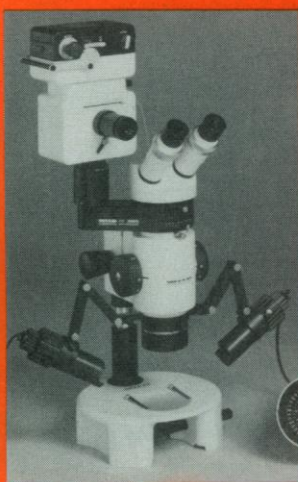
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