

Volume 216, number 1

FEBS LETTERS

May 1987

on the possible role of oxygen-derived species in tumour promotion.

Overall, I enjoyed this book and am pleased to

have it on my bookshelf. I would certainly recommend it to others.

B. Halliwell

Benzodiazepine/GABA Receptors and Chloride Channels

Edited by R.W. Olsen and J.C. Venter

Alan R. Liss; New York, 1986

351 pages. £42.50

This is the fifth volume in the series 'Receptor Biochemistry and Methodology'. The authors of the 17 chapters are among the foremost researchers in the field and appropriately the first chapter is an historical review by Dr Eugene Robers, who discovered GABA in brain: it is of interest to read about the general unwillingness of the scientific community to accept GABA as a neurotransmitter. This chapter is also useful as an introductory overview as the various diverse aspects of the subject are discussed, e.g. from the basic neurochemistry of GABA and glutamate to the role of GABA ergic systems and seizures. There are chapters on radioligand binding studies to study GABA receptor subtypes, the benzodiazepine binding site(s), the chloride channel and the picrotoxin binding site (e.g. by Emna, Karbon and Johnston and by Walmsley et al.). The electrophysiology of the system is described in detail (e.g. by Haefely and Pole and by Barker and Owen). The various approaches to the purification and characterisation of the receptor(s) and binding

sites, e.g. the use of photoaffinity labels (Tallman), the use of monoclonal antibodies (Mahler et al.) and general procedures (Stephenson and Barnard), are also presented. Finally there is a chapter by Chugani and Olsen on related clinical issues, and for myself as a non-clinician, this was most fun to read.

I have a few minor criticisms. I think the book would have benefited from being divided into subsections. I think a whole book on GABA/benzodiazepine 'receptors' inevitably has some overlap between some of the chapters and finally, I cannot understand why the publishers appear to have changed from matt to glossy paper in various parts of the book.

As the title suggests, the book is a very extensive review of the subject. I have found it very informative and this year I will certainly know more about the GABA/benzodiazepine receptor complex than do my students!

Iain Campbell

The Leukotrienes: Their Biological Significance

Edited by P.J. Piper

Raven Press; New York, 1986

xiii + 219 pages. £62.50

This book gives a concise overview of some aspects of the ever-expanding leukotriene field, and is based on presentations given at a Biological Coun-

cil symposium in 1985. Publications has been pretty rapid (using camera-ready format) and citations are included up to end 1985.