

performance is affected by acute or chronic sleep deprivation or by the disorders that lead to the condition. The lesson, it appears, is that we must now develop a newfound respect for the adverse possibilities of sleep deprivation in all its biologic forms and move on with scientific investigation into those aspects that are most compelling to the individual and society.

Robert C. Basner, M.D.

Columbia University
College of Physicians and Surgeons
New York, NY 10032

**PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY: DRUGS,
THE BRAIN, AND BEHAVIOR**

By Jerrold S. Meyer and Linda F. Quenzer. 555 pp., illustrated.
Sunderland, Mass., Sinauer Associates, 2005. \$72.95.
ISBN 0-87893-534-7.

IN THE PREFACE TO THIS BOOK, THE authors point out that for thousands of years humans have used psychoactive substances to modify their perceptions and mood. Indeed, some observers believe that such behavior may be a defining characteristic of the human condition. In contrast to the millennial history of drug taking, the era of scientific psychopharmacology is very short; perhaps its proper beginning can be dated to the middle of the 20th century. Since then, the rate of accrual of new knowledge in the field has increased enormously.

The authors aim to produce an introductory textbook on psychopharmacology and to convey some of the excitement that they find in this disci-

pline. They attempt to create an integrated work, linking the basic principles of pharmacology, neurophysiology, and related neuroscience; the key features of the neurotransmitter systems; and the theories and mechanisms of related illnesses, including substance abuse and major psychiatric disorders. The authors have succeeded in reaching all these goals. They cover the important topics with great clarity, and the reader will find all the subjects accessible. “Hooks” at the beginning of each chapter — such as an image of the title page of *Über Coca*, Sigmund Freud’s tribute to the virtues of cocaine — catch the interest of the reader; the authors, while not compromising the thoroughness of their scientific explanations, have greatly enhanced the book’s readability with this technique. A particular delight is that the book is sumptuously illustrated — many of the illustrations are eye-catching and attention-grabbing.

As with any first edition, there are one or two minor flaws in the writing and minor errors in the references. Available to qualified adopters of this textbook are special supplements — a resource CD for instructors, which contains all the figures, illustrations, photographs, and tables from the book, as well as a test bank consisting of 50 questions per chapter. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wishes to learn about psychopharmacology.

Allan Hunter Young, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Newcastle
Newcastle NE1 4LP, United Kingdom
a.h.young@ncl.ac.uk

Book Reviews Copyright © 2005 Massachusetts Medical Society.

CORRECTIONS

Elevated Plasma Factor VIII and D-Dimer Levels as Predictors of Poor Outcomes of Thrombosis in Children (September 9, 2004; 351:1081-8). On page 1084, in Table 1, the range for factor VIII among patients who had no initial elevation in levels of factor VIII and d-dimer should have been 56 to 142 IU per deciliter, rather than 56 to 242, as printed.

Amiodarone or an Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator for Congestive Heart Failure (January 20, 2005;352:225-37). On page 226, in the right-hand column, line 8 of the first full paragraph should have read “aldosterone-receptor blocker,” rather than “aldosterone,” as printed.

U.K. Controlled Trial of Intrapleural Streptokinase for Pleural Infection (March 3, 2005;352:865-74). On page 870, in Figure 1, the number of patients receiving placebo who completed the trial should have been 221, not 206, as printed. We regret the error.

