

if all the relevant review articles published elsewhere on each topic were listed together.

These points would improve a series that is likely to become an indispensable resource for many libraries, as well as for individuals who are particularly interested in one or more of the main section areas. □

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## Better read than dread

*Kenneth S. Kosik*

**Brain Pathology.** Editor-in-chief Paul Kleihues. *International Society of Neuropathology*, PO Box, CH-8033, Zürich, Switzerland. 4/yr. SFr120, \$90 (institutional); SFr75, \$50 (personal).

THIS journal has a stylish, albeit somewhat lugubrious cover on which the image of a microscopic section, often from a dread brain condition, is surrounded by a black border. Inside, each issue is devoted to a single chosen theme for which a guest editor has solicited reviews (unsolicited papers on the chosen topic are also considered). In the evolution of scientific journals, the appearance of the review journal is a relatively late development. Its arrival represents a confidence that the flow of information in a particular field is suffi-

ciently large. The editors of *Brain Pathology* and its publisher believe and, indeed, have so far demonstrated, that neuropathology has achieved this evolutionary milestone. *Brain Pathology* has tackled the somewhat staid world of neuropathology, with its usual emphasis on descriptive morphology, by inviting contributions on the many intriguing molecular and cellular aspects of brain pathology. Whereas the literature on the neurosciences is voluminous and burgeoning, neuropathology as a distinct field has not grown so quickly. This journal, as the first theme-oriented journal devoted to neuropathology, hopefully heralds a change in this relatively slow growth.

The themes or symposia (as they are called in the journal) address topical subjects for which there are now a great deal of data. Some of the recent themes are: "Brain tumours: Molecular aspects", "Mitochondrial encephalomyopathies", "Gene transfer into the nervous system", "HIV infection of the brain" and "Alzheimer's disease: Molecular basis of structural lesions". The contributions are all extremely relevant and the contributors are scientists of high repute. The organization of each symposium is left to the discretion of the guest editor, and in each case the reviews have succeeded in being up to date, although not always comprehensive.

Historical notes spice many of the papers, such as that on "Neuropathology in the Third Reich" (neuropathology is more conscious of its past than many other scientific disciplines). The journal is rounded out with meeting reports, meeting abstracts, book reviews and portraits of now legendary figures such as

Lucien Rubinstein and Harry Zimmerman. Reflecting the views of the International Society of Neuropathology, *Brain Pathology* is admirably international, at least to the extent that North America, Western Europe and Japan are well represented. The editors have the well-intentioned wish to extend the circulation of the journal to South America and Africa, which at present account for only seven and two subscriptions respectively. One step in this direction is the low cost of a subscription made possible by the desktop publishing techniques used by the journal. Nonetheless, the format is attractive and the photography (including colour) is of very high quality, as is mandatory for a neuropathology journal. The recent decision by the editors to accept primary research papers will certainly determine whether the journal succeeds in the long term. □

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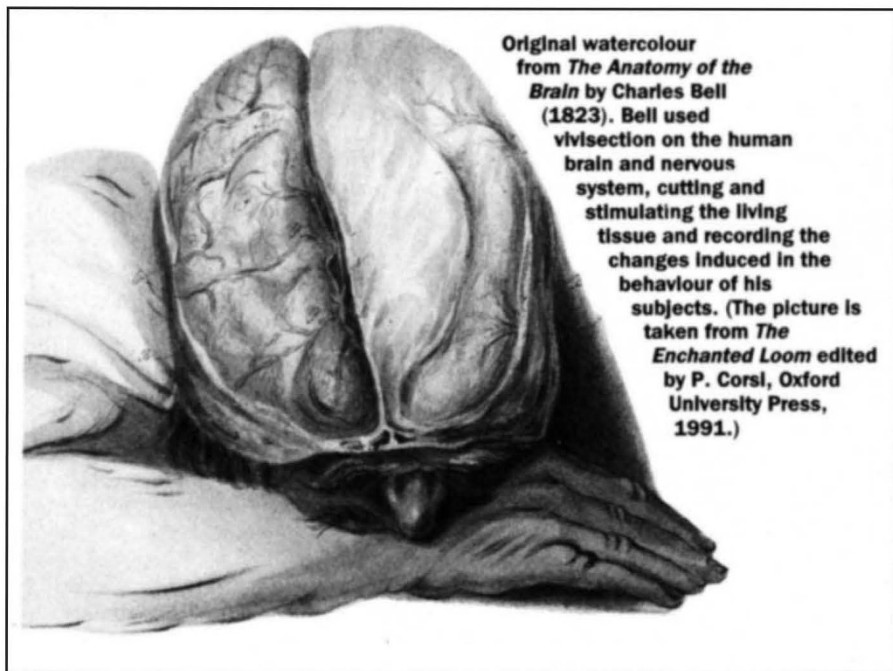
## Established newcomer

*Larry W. Swanson*

**Frontiers in Neuroendocrinology.** Editors W. E. Ganong and L. Martini. *Raven*. 4/yr. US and Canada \$215, elsewhere \$260 (institutional); US and Canada \$162, elsewhere \$190 (personal).

A YEAR ago I was asked to review a promising new addition to the literature, *Journal of Neuroendocrinology*, and I am now doing the same for a well-established 'new' journal, *Frontiers in Neuroendocrinology*. I say well-established because it actually began in 1969 as a book of review articles published biennially. At the time, the editors (who remain valiantly in place) observed that neuroendocrinology is concerned not only with neural control of endocrine secretion but is a truly broad yet fascinating discipline concerned with mechanisms critical for survival of the individual and the species.

This series, at the interface between endocrinology and neuroscience, was so successful that in 1990 it began quarterly publication of three or four reviews, most of which are commissioned. From the beginning, *Frontiers* built a well-deserved reputation for publishing interesting, current, authoritative reviews in the range of 15 to 50 pages, and many readers looked forward to its appearance. So it seems almost inevitable that a more timely publication schedule would eventually be adopted, and the current



Original watercolour from *The Anatomy of the Brain* by Charles Bell (1823). Bell used vivisection on the human brain and nervous system, cutting and stimulating the living tissue and recording the changes induced in the behaviour of his subjects. (The picture is taken from *The Enchanted Loom* edited by P. Corsi, Oxford University Press, 1991.)