suggesting merely a practical handbook, it will not deter readers, particularly from disciplines allied to developmental neurology, from enjoying and benefiting from the discussions in this book. The full bibliography at the end of each chapter gives good opportunity also for further reading on particular aspects of the subject. Conversely this is a book which gives much practical and detailed information on the management of the varying situations of raised intracranial pressure. Reference to it in an emergency could well be most helpful.

The conciseness of the information reflects the depth of the authors' experience. Where they are hesitant I find it only increased my confidence in their statements. Thus, although most paediatricians have their own ideas, when I turned for authoritative advice on the management of chronic subdural fluid collections, I read, after a good review of the possibilities, "our current level of knowledge does not allow conclusions in regard to the ideal method of treatment of those cases that do not respond to repeated subdural taps."

In their preface the authors rightly say that they stress the need for the clinician to be constantly aware of the possible adverse effects of some diagnostic procedures. I believe this should have allowed them to place greater emphasis on the use of computerised axial tomography in the diagnosis of many of the causes of raised intracranial pressure, and how this investigation has to a great extent supplanted the more invasive contrast investigations. They certainly describe its use in each pathology but give, for these days, undue prominence to the latter type of investigation such as ventriculography. This, however, is a fine point and perhaps they are swayed by the fear, also indicated in their preface, that too ready a recourse to this facility will lead to a dangerous neglect of history and neurological examination.

The book is divided into three parts. Part one deals with general concepts. Part two describes causes other than tumours and includes chapters on hydrocephalus, benign intracranial hypertension, lead encephalopathy, head injuries, and infections. Part three, in eight well-defined chapters, describes the intracranial tumours of childhood. All make profitable and interesting reading. The extended consideration of Reye's

syndrome will have more appeal to the physician, and some of the more obscure causes of raised intracranial pressure and the discussions about migraine and headache in childhood may make surgical readers wonder if the remit hasn't been somewhat stretched. However, they are rapidly reassured by authors who bring out such practical points as the state of shock which may supervene in an infant with an epidural haematoma and the clinical differentiation between a cerebellar astrocytoma and medulloblastoma.

In addition to the chapters which deal so well with the common childhood tumours, I enjoyed reading the authors' descriptions of the mechanisms of visual disturbances, particularly in pineal and brainstem tumours. Their gentle reminder that the old concept of eosinophil, basophil, and chromophobe pituitary tumours was too naive and their discussion of immunological factors in the differentiation of neuroblastoma to ganglion neuroma were interesting.

I found their final chapters on the less common tumours, such as those arising in the optic nerves and hypothalamus and the choroid plexus, together with nasal gliomas and diffuse leptomeningeal tumours, a fitting conclusion to a book which I strongly recommend because in short compass it ranges widely but remains a very good practical guide.

J. F. SHAW

The Teaching of Psychosomatic Medicine and Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Edited by C. P. Kimball and A. J. Krakowski. (Pp. 188; illustrated; Sw fr 83.00.) S. Karger: Basel. 1979.

The publication of this book occurs appropriately at a time when the practice of psychiatry is becoming more closely reintegrated with the mainstream of medicine. Diminishing stigma, more favourable professional and public attitudes, and the inception of psychiatric units in district general hospitals have contributed to the wind of change. "Consultative" or "liaison" psychiatry refers to the practical working relationship between psychiatrists and physicians in hospital wards and clinics, and in teaching.

The volume comprises 17 chapters (rather than 20, as stated on its back page) contributed by 14 experts on the

subject. A broad view is taken of liaison psychiatry and a worthwhile endeavour is made to bid farewell to the narrower psychosomatic concepts of the past and to the "holy seven psychosomatic diseases" of Franz Alexander. The role of the psychiatrist in the medical ward is realistically seen to have many facets, primarily involving consultation with the patient but frequently including communication with medical colleagues and also the functions of mediator, interpreter, diagnostician, therapist, teacher, and facilitator of decision-making. The chapters fall into two groupings—one dealing with basic concepts of liaison psychiatry and the other with specialist areas of this subject.

Dr A. J. Krakowski of Plattsburgh, New York describes the practice of liaison psychiatry in North America in the 1970s, mentioning the clinical tactics to be pursued by the wise psychiatrist, and giving detailed attention to the delicate triadic relationship between the referring physician, patient, and psychiatrist. There is a particularly interesting contribution on the problem of pain, especially chronic intractable pain, by Dr R. A. Ramsay of Montreal. In a chapter on medical rehabilitation by Professor R. C. B. Aitken of Edinburgh the argument is put forward that there exists an especially clamant need for improved rehabilitation services for the middle-aged disabled with arthritic, neurologic, and cardiovascular disorders.

This book is highly recommended for physicians and psychiatrists interested in collaborating with each other. However, its comparatively high price and lack of an index are regrettable features.

A. B. SCLARE

Manual of Neurologic Therapeutics Edited by Martin A. Samuels. (Pp. 436; illustrated; \$12.50.) Little, Brown and Company: Boston. 1978.

This ringbound softback is dedicated to Raymond D. Adams and written by a group of his former residents. The first part has chapters on coma, headache, dementia, dizziness, backache, epilepsy, and brain death. Other sections deal with groups of diseases. It is well edited and has a good index.

The book is presented in tabular form and didactic style with clear advice