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

on the management of patients. Review articles are listed at the end of each chapter. I was surprised to find phenobarbitone emphasised in the management of adults with status epilepticus. The stance adopted in therapy is positive and at times aggressive. Radiotherapy is advised for all patients with inoperable cerebral metastases, and proton beam therapy is regarded as the treatment of choice for pituitary adenoma without extrasellar extension. Carotid endarterectomy is recommended for hemispheric transient ischaemic attacks or the less disabling completed strokes when stenosis is shown by arteriography. Misprints are few but the spelling of Sharpey-Schafer (page 117) was beyond the authors' pen.

This is essentially a practical guide for use in the ward or outpatient clinic. It succeeds in providing a large, readily accessible, detailed, and authoritative source of information. The physician will select an appropriate regime for his patient according to his own philosophy.

BRYAN ASHWORTH

Clinical Psychiatry in Primary Care
By S. L. Dubovsky and M. P. Weissberg.
(Pp. 212; \$10.95.) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore. 1978.

There must be few doctors who can read this admirable book and not learn something about their attitudes towards patients and the latter's reaction to the physician and to illness. It is intended for all practitioners other than the psychiatrist but even he would benefit from dipping into the text. Each problem is dealt with by describing an encounter with a typical patient, possible reactions of the doctor, common unsuccessful approaches, and an ideal model for tackling it. Although not comprehensive in its coverage, the general practitioner and hospital doctor will find here an account of most psychiatric conditions likely to be encountered.

The approaches outlined are counsels of perfection and one wonders to what extent they can be applied within the National Health Service. There are two main problems. The first is that it is doubtful whether non-psychiatrists have the expertise assumed by the American authors. However, now that increasing numbers of general practitioners and

physicians have several months' psychiatric experience included in their training programmes the position may alter. The second problem will be more intractable—lack of time. There must be few who can arrange to meet relatives and entire families, or even patients, as regularly as suggested.

J. A. G. WATT

Organic Psychiatry The Psychological Consequences of Cerebral Disorder
By W. A. Lishman. (Pp. 999; £28.00.) Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford. 1978.

The author describes in detail the psychological phenomena associated with organic disease, both cerebral and extracerebral. His treatment of this field is extended and complete. The first four chapters are concerned with the principles of relationship between specific psychological deficit and brain function, clinical assessment and differential diagnosis. Subsequent chapters describe the clinical, psychiatric, and psychological consequences of the different pathological processes. Mental subnormality and child psychiatry are omitted, the author conceding that these topics are beyond his competence.

The author is a distinguished psychiatrist with a wide experience in the organic field. The purpose of this book is to bridge the gap between psychiatry and neurology. The style is lucid, the text is generously seeded with appropriate references to original sources, and the index is full but easy to use. This is an important book—as stated in the foreword “there is no comparable book in the English-speaking world.” It is expensive, but is warmly recommended.

W. F. DURWARD

Group Psychotherapy Theory and Practice Second edition. By Hugh Mullan and Max Rosenbaum. (Pp. 418; illustrated; \$17.95.) Free Press: New York and London. 1978.

Mullan and Rosenbaum have produced an interesting and authoritative textbook on group psychotherapy. The book, now into its second edition, is in three parts.

The first part contains a fascinating account of the origin and subsequent development of group psychotherapy, including the work of all the major influential figures from the United States and Europe. The second part gives a lucid description of the process of group psychotherapy. It includes chapters on selection, the first session, termination, and other matters of practical importance. This section also deals with more controversial issues—for example, the use of co-therapists and the value of alternate and extended sessions. It presents the evidence on these matters in a balanced manner. The final part concentrates on newer influences on group psychotherapy. It includes chapters on art therapy, transactional analysis, gestalt therapy, psychodrama, bioenergetic therapy, and existential group therapy. These chapters are mostly written by individual contributors. If some of them lack the clarity of earlier sections of the book it is perhaps a reflection of the difficulty in describing these therapies which depend for their effectiveness on intense relational experience.

The strength of the textbook is perhaps also its major weakness for the British reader. It is a book which describes group psychotherapy as it has developed in the United States. Its themes and preoccupations are less relevant to British group psychotherapy. However, I think that it would be an interesting addition to any library, if only to remind us of our basic conservatism.

MARGARET R. MALCOM

Notice

Computerised Tomography of Brain and Spinal Cord A symposium on this subject will be held in Bordeaux, France from 20–22 September 1979 under the auspices of the University of Bordeaux II and INSERM (National Institute of Health and Medical Research). The registration fee is 1000 francs. Information may be obtained from Professor J. M. Caillé, Secretariat Service Neuroradiologie, Hôpital Pellegrin-Tripode, Place Amélie-Raba-Léon, 33076 Bordeaux-Cedex, France.