lingual (in many cases multilingual), and the opportunities for testing and developing Albert and Obler's ideas should present themselves relatively easily.

MKC MACMAHON

A Manual of Neurosurgery By MB Allen Jr, GS Doetsch, RA Gindin, FL Haar, and F Yaghami (pp 282; illustrated; \$24.95) University Park Press: Baltimore, London, Tokyo. 1978.

The strength of this large format American book lies in its readability and generous content of illustrations. Students will also appreciate the series of questions and brief case histories at the end of each chapter, with an appendix of answers and comments. This reinforces and expands the text without overloading the chapters. The approach is practical and businesslike but is too brief in parts—for example, that muscle tone is assessed only in cases of movement disorder. The cursory reference to certain drugs, often using the proprietary name alone, is irritating. To find obsolete spelling, for example "vocal chord" and printing errors including an inverted drawing is surprising in a paperback costing 25 dollars.

Despite the denunciation of imprecise terms such as "semi-comatose" the text contains phrases such as "the stuporous patient" and "decompensation ie stupor."

Careful editing would have obviated these criticisms, but in summary, the book provides a useful and interesting guide for medical students, nurses, and junior doctors.

BRIAN SIMPSON

Sleep, Vol 2: Diagnostic classification of sleep and arousal disorders Edited by WC Dement and C Guilleminault (pp 137; \$15.00) New York: Raven Press 1979

Misunderstanding of patients' complaints about sleep is widespread. There has been a recent dramatic change in this situation particularly in the USA where there has been a sharp expansion of facilities for the investigation and treatment of sleep disorders and their study has been elevated to a medical subspecialty. This journal issue contains an account of sleep and arousal disorders and classification of these by

symptom rather than by pathology or neurochemistry, developed by a committee of American psychiatrists and sleep researchers. The result is invaluable despite excessive coding and the limitations of any new nosology which will stimulate dissent as well as agreement. Thus many neurologists may doubt whether REM and NREM narcolepsy are different disorders, or whether sleep is refreshing in the former but not the latter condition. Surely, it is not difficult to distinguish narcolepsy from multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, hypothyroidism or epilepsy. Classification of the effects of jet-lag, conflict, loss, stress and depression on sleep may not be of great value. Sometimes, too great reliance is put on sleep laboratory findings so that diagnosis is made by machine rather than by symptom. The degree of jargon can be vexatious—a typical example of style is "accordingly in the interest of developing an appropriate corresponding ICD-9-CM code for every ASDC-APSS sleep disorder syndrome." Despite all these problems, this volume contains a clear description of the characteristic features of many sleep-related syndromes, including conditions as diverse as paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria and restless legs. There are many references and an excellent glossary. Apart from debased language, this is highly recommended, although possibly of more value in the recognition and understanding of sleep disorders than in their codification.

DAVID PARKES

Uncommon Psychiatric Syndromes by Enoch, MD and Trethowan, WH (pp 193, £9.00). Bristol: John Wright and Sons, 1979.

Despite concentrated effort no great progress has been made in identifying disease entities rather than syndromes in psychiatry, so that the appearance of the second edition of this book is not anachronistic. There has been a worthwhile revision and updating of the chapters on the original seven syndrome:—Capgras, De Clérambault, Othello, Ganser, Couvade, Munchausen and Gilles de la Tourette. However, there are new chapters on Cotard's syndrome, *folie à deux et à plusieurs* and on possession states and syndromes, the addition of all seeming

unjustified. Even the authors agonise over whether Cotard's syndrome is worth designating as such. The nihilistic ideas entertained by some psychotically depressed patients do not usually dominate the clinical picture as does the morbid jealousy occurring in paranoid states. In the so-called possession states the prominence of the delusion of being possessed varies, in one case cited this being viewed as an explanation for leading somatic symptoms. The chapter on *folie à deux et à plusieurs* is more worthy of inclusion, pulling together much information about the subtle variations which occur and examining the difficulty in deciding who is the "inducer" and whether the "acceptor" is necessarily the more passive.

JAG WATT

Alzheimer's Disease Edited by AIM Glen and LJ Whalley (pp 203; £14.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1979.

Dementia is one of the commonest causes of admission to mental hospitals in the developed world. Recognition of the size of this problem has led to renewed research effort and to the publication of a number of monographs. This book records the papers and discussion at a symposium held in Edinburgh in February 1979. The meeting was mainly concerned with problems of early diagnosis of dementia of Alzheimer type and of the prospects for treatment of this disorder, and the book therefore consists of three parts concerning diagnosis, measurement of the functional neuropsychological defect in the disease, and possible treatments. Other causes of dementia receive attention only in proportion to their importance in the differential diagnosis. The epidemiology, biochemistry and neuropathology of Alzheimer's Disease is discussed in the first part of the book and the concluding third of the volume reports the results of attempts to improve cognitive function, and especially memory, by treatment with choline, lecithin or physostigmine, drugs which might be expected to have a cholinomimetic effect. This form of treatment has a theoretical basis in the biochemical finding of a cholinergic defect in the temporal lobe in patients with Alzheimer's disease but the results of these studies, most of which are preliminary

Book reviews

or which describe results in only small numbers of patients, cannot be described as more than encouraging at the present time. It is clear that there is much yet to be learnt. In particular, the nature of the cognitive defect found so characteristically in the disease is, as yet, poorly understood. This hampers attempts to document improvement in a patient's performance because it leads to difficulties in establishing serial measurements.

This volume provides a useful review of recent work on Alzheimer's disease, but the content of the individual contributions is very uneven and, in some instances, represents work already described elsewhere.

MICHAEL SWASH

Noninvasive Measurement of Regional Cerebral Blood Flow in Man Edited by V. D. Deshmukh and J. S. Meyer. (Pp. 224; illustrated; £14.00.) SP Medical and Scientific Books: London. 1978.

It is more than 30 years since it became possible to measure cerebral blood flow in life in man. The first brief chapter of this book neatly outlines the developments over this period—from invasive to non-invasive methods. Recognising that the latter are now predominant in clinical practice the book passes quickly to the practical details of how these work and of normal values. There is a useful chapter on physiological and pharmacological factors, and a longish one on clinical applications.

This is a well-balanced book, usefully but not fussily illustrated with sensible line diagrams and matt black and white. There are plenty of good data about normal values, and a generous reference list for each chapter. A most useful volume, ideal for the team coming into this field and wanting a practical manual from which to start.

BRYAN JENNETT

Paediatric Neurology edited by F Clifford Rose (pp 701; £47.50) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979. This extensive work results from the collaboration of 41 authorities in paediatric neurology, and related areas. The fact that 37 of these are from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth gives this volume a unique

viewpoint amongst currently available paediatric neurology texts. Another distinction provided by this book is that it includes several well written chapters on areas in which the average paediatrician or paediatric neurologist commonly finds himself involved, but which are somewhat tangential to paediatric neurology and therefore barely touched by other texts. They include useful chapters on otoneurology by L Fisch, on speech disorders by the editor himself, on neuroradiology by B Kendall, and on electroencephalography by PG Procopis.

Rather than reviewing this book slavishly, chapter by chapter, I decided to place it on my desk, and see how it would fare over the next week or two in providing answers to questions I had, and in giving me an overview of some of my problem patients. I soon put it to its task. There was a patient with breath-holding spells and a fairly long major motor seizure. The index referred me to the EEG in this condition, but nothing about the clinical presentation except for a comment on Lombroso and Lerman's classification. Somehow, this subject had not been covered in Gardener-Thorpe's chapter on the Epilepsies.

The next time I turned to the book was to check on Ounsted's studies on psychomotor (temporal lobe) epilepsy. I was anxious to learn whether patients were hyperkinetic prior to the onset of their psychomotor seizures. To my surprise, the discussion of psychomotor epilepsy in Chapter 21 was curt—one paragraph—and there were no references for further reading. Temporal lobe epilepsy is briefly mentioned in the chapter on otoneurology, but all in all, I was dissatisfied by the book's coverage of this topic. Next, there was a child with Moebius Syndrome who prompted me to consult the volume. The condition is mentioned in Chapter 3 (neonatal neurology) as a cause for facial weakness in the newborn. It is covered in eight lines in the chapter on neuromuscular diseases, and a reference to sensorineural hearing loss in this condition is given in the chapter on otoneurology. All in all, this coverage too was not satisfactory. Certainly it was hardly better than that provided by standard pediatric texts.

My next reference to the book was

in relation to a patient with suspected Friedreich's ataxia. The coverage of this topic by RCF Newton, in the chapter on degenerative disease, was succinct, and well indexed. The biochemical abnormalities in pyruvate metabolism were not mentioned, but this may reflect the usual two-year lag time between the writing of the chapter and its publication. This lag time becomes more noticeable in Chapter 37 (Metabolic Disorders). Surprisingly, this chapter does not cover phenylketonuria, although its opening paragraph states that the author (L Sinclair) has classified it under disorders of intermediary metabolism. Phenylketonuria is mentioned in the chapter on Mental Handicap, but only in passing.

By now, I was becoming concerned about the text. I therefore looked for tuberose sclerosis, a topic which I expected it to cover well. I could not find it in the index. Neurofibromatosis was mentioned in the chapter on spinal dysraphism, and in the neuro-radiology chapter. There was one paragraph on Sturge-Weber disease in the chapter on cerebrovascular disorders, but this was without references. The topic of head injuries fared no better. The chapter was disappointing — no reference to Jennett's classic work — none to Mealey's.

In summary: An expensive, disappointing, disarranged volume, which fell short of my expectations.

JOHN H MENKES

Muscular Dystrophy and Other Inherited Diseases of Skeletal Muscle in Animals edited by JB Harris (pp 716; \$80) New York: New York Academy of Sciences, 1979.

Man shares many diseases with animals. It has been the hope that the study of inherited disorders in animals would illuminate the nature of comparable genetic disorders in man. In general, as is not perhaps unexpected, the precise correspondence between genetic disorders in animals and man is a rarity; but there can be no doubt that the study of animal mutants, particularly the large number that are available in the mouse, has provided much useful information as to disease mechanisms. Such mutants may also provide a con-