Diagnosis and Nonsurgical Management of Chronic Pain. By Nelson Hendler. (Pp 220; \$29.92.) New York: Raven Press, 1980.

This is a well organised and readable book. The author distinguishes a number of subtypes of chronic pain with the hope that by so doing an understanding of their natural cause and prognosis will be more easily developed and the correct and effective treatment more readily applied. The four categories of chronic pain patients are based on the premorbid adjustment; the chronicity of the pain; the onset of the pain and a thorough medical and psychiatric history. The categories are (1) patients with good premorbid adjustment who have organically definable lesions with positive objective findings. He calls these objective pain patients, (2) next are those having good psychiatric adjustment beforehand and an undefinable or undetermined aetiology for their pain. These are called undetermined pain patients, (3) these patients have real organic causes for their pain but have a premorbid pre-pain adjustment suggestive of psychiatric problems. These are called exaggerated pain patients, (4) this group have had psychiatric difficulties prior to the onset of their pain but deny this and attribute everything to their pain for which no organic basis can be found. These he calls associative pain patients.

Bearing in mind that some patients cross the boundaries between these categories, the first eleven chapters are devoted to a discussion of these patients with some examples of treatment. There is discussion of the relationship of stress, personality disorders, hysteria and conversion mechanism in the mentioned categories. Chapter 12 is short but gives useful tests for malingering while Chapter 13 is devoted to psychological tests for chronic pain. The Hendler 10 minute screening test for chronic back pain patients at the end of this chapter will be found useful. Chapter 14 on the psychopharmacology of chronic pain and Chapter 18 on anatomy should be important sections of this book but unfortunately are too short to deal with their subjects in any depth. They do not reach the level of the rest of the book.

An interesting and useful history of the development of a 14-bed inpatient chronic pain treatment centre within a general hospital is provided based on Professor Bonica's unit at Seattle. It will be found

useful to those developing similar units elsewhere. Finally, are two most important chapters. One on the physician's reaction to pain patients dividing them into six categories with all too brief a description of each. Finally a useful warning chapter on commonly misdiagnosed pain syndromes.

All in all a most interesting and welcome book which attempts to tabulate a very difficult subject. It will be useful reading for any physician and should certainly be in the hospital library.

S LIPTON

Pictorial Manual of Neurologic Tests (2nd ed). By MW Van Allen and RL Rodnitzky. (Pp 227; £14.00.) London: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1981.

The well-produced book from the University of Iowa is very good with many clear illustrations and a comprehensive and accurate text. The authors include a simple description of the basic neurological examination of both children and adults, and discuss common abnormal symptoms and signs. The examination of comatose patients is described in some detail and brief tests of mental function are given. The book is intended to be an introduction to neurological examination for medical students and will serve them well, although some of the illustrations of patients with extrapyramidal diseases are not very convincing, the diagram of dermatomes is too small, and the drawings of normal postures and activities such as standing, walking, squatting, turning and hopping are surely redundant. The book includes a basic bibliography and a good index. However praiseworthy overall, this book is in direct competition with Bickerstaff's superb *Neurological Examination in Clinical Practice*, now in its fourth edition (Blackwell, Oxford, 1980, £18.00). This is a far more comprehensive book that is full of clinical wisdom and is much better value despite its slightly higher cost. Paper-back editions of both books are needed at prices that students can afford.

JD PARKES

Organic Brain Syndromes: An Introduction to Neurobehavioral Disorders. By Richard L Strub and F William Black. (Pp 423; \$30, £15.00.) Philadelphia: FA Davis & Co, 1981.

This book is a useful addition to the growing library on behavioural neurology and related topics. The authors, both neurologists, have set out to examine, as Frank Benson in his foreword calls it, "the recently established no-man's land between psychiatry and neurology". They achieve this task well, providing a text which can be read by non-neurological specialists, and should prove especially valuable to psychiatrists who wish to explore this field.

The first section deals with neuroanatomy and some basic brain behaviour relationships. It is well illustrated and precise, although unashamedly localisationist in approach. In addition, the non-medical evaluation of patients is discussed in this section with a useful review of many widely used neuropsychological tests and their clinical application. The second section deals with major organic brain syndromes covering both acute and chronic, localised and generalised, varieties. The chapters covering the dementias are particularly useful and provide an up-to-date account of this interesting and rapidly advancing field. The third section on "neurobehavioural syndromes of specific aetiologies" covers the behavioural consequences of closed head trauma, toxic substances, infections, epilepsy, cerebrovascular disease and tumours. The final section covers other neurobehavioural syndromes of relevance. This, if anything, is the weakest section including five pages on schizophrenia and manic-depressive illness, which is better than none, with the recognition that these too "not only have organic aspects, but possibly organic aetiologies".

For the bibliophile, the book is nicely produced with a green simulated leather cover and gold lettering. The overall presentation is one that feels nice, looks nice, and for the fetishist smells nice.

MICHAEL TRIMBLE