Book reviews

Current Developments in Psychopharmacology. Vol 6. Edited by Walter B Essman and L Valzelli. (Pp 226; £29.50.) Lancaster: MTP Press Ltd, 1981.

This would appear to be the last volume of the series of books of this title. Like previous volumes it contains review monographs on a variety of different aspects of psychopharmacology. The contents of the present volume are diverse to say the least. They deal with the actions of psycho-active drugs on the nervous system and behaviour of non-mammalian species, genetic aspects of behavioural response to opiates, actions of anticonvulsant drugs on behaviour and cognitive ability, tardive dyskinesia, nicotine and smoking, antidepressant actions of lithium, and circadian fluctuations in the effect of neuroleptic agents. As such the volume is unlikely to be of specific interest to any one group. From my own interests I found the chapter by Dr Trimble to be an interesting compilation of the literature available on the relationship between anticonvulsant drugs and disturbances of behaviour and cognitive ability. It is clear that this is an area where a great deal of further research is needed. The chapter by Dr Itoh on tardive dyskinesia induced by neuroleptic drugs provides an insight into the approach to this disorder being carried out in Japan. It is only one of a number of available reviews of this area and as such is not the most detailed or explicit. Dr Kumar and Professor Lader provide a critical review of the pharmacology of nicotine in the central nervous system and behavioural effects produced in animals together with the role played by nicotine in smoking behaviour in man and in the reinforcing properties of nicotine on smoking.

This is an interesting and timely addition to the literature in this field. Dr Nagavama and colleagues present a fascinating insight into circadian fluctuations in the effects of neuroleptic drugs. The pattern of circadian variation appears to vary with the drug employed and the dosage utilised. It appears that it is some change in the sensitivity of the brain to the drug rather than any alteration in drug concentration which is the important factor in determining circadian variation. Overall, a very mixed book containing a variety of chapters on very different topics. It is unlikely to find application as a standard text or indeed as a reference book. It will no doubt be bought by those who have the previous five vol-

umes in this series and appears primarily aimed at libraries. £29.50, in my opinion, is expensive and I would not personally buy this volume.

PG JENNER

Medicine and Psychiatry: A Practical Approach. Edited by Francis H Creed and Jeremy M Pfeffer. (Pp 474; £35.00.) London: Pitman Books Limited, 1982.

There can be no doubt about the invasion of psychiatrists into the general hospital over the past few decades. The growth of so-called "liaison psychiatry", mainly in the United States, is encouraged in this country by the current policy of the DHSS to integrate psychiatric services and general medical services in the setting, for example, of psychiatric units in district general hospitals. Psychiatrists have started to eat lunch with their colleagues, leading not only hopefully to an acceptance that they have similar table manners and can therefore eat together, but also to the planning of such books as this.

The editors, both consultant psychiatrists, have brought together physicians from a variety of fields to write chapters in association with psychiatric colleagues emphasising in particular the common language between them. Although the bias is towards physicians from the London hospitals, outsiders have also been included, the most notable perhaps being Professor Lipowski from Dartmouth, USA.

The book is divided into two halves. The first includes general principles and covers such topics as the history of liaison psychiatry, the relationship between physical and psychiatric symptoms, the essence of the consultation process itself, cultural problems and some of the important aspects of teaching psychiatry as part of medicine. In the second part, special topics are considered. Broadly, most of the symptoms in medicine are covered by a single chapter, and a specialist physician has co-written a chapter with an interested psychiatrist. We therefore see chapters on obstetrics and gynaecology, neurology, diseases of the chest, cardiovascular problems, gastro-intestinal diseases, dentistry, renal problems, endocrine disorders, pain and rheumatology and dermatology. In addition to these, some special topics such as sexual problems in the general hospital, setting up a service for mastectomy patients, and dealing with alcoholic and geriatric patients are also included. It is encouraging to see that the authors have

also invited a chapter from a psychologist and a social worker, but a notable omission is a contribution from a nurse with particular reference to the role of the liaison nurse.

The book itself reaches a fairly substantial size with 28 chapters, but it has been well orchestrated by the editors and the final result is that it makes satisfactory reading and also provides a useful reference book for those working in a liaison setting.

Unfortunately, although the publishers have produced a nice volume, the price is likely to prohibit those who would most like to purchase this book from actually doing so. This seems such a common comment in book reviews today. Hopefully, if it is made loud and long enough, publishers will come to realise, as the Arabs have had to do with the price of oil, that the price of books is dictated by the market place. If they are not selling enough, it is not through lack of good writers but through unrealistic pricing of the final product.

MICHAEL TRIMBLE

Basic Neuroradiology. By Mohammad Sarwar, Behrooz Azar-Kia and Solomon Barnitzky. (Pp 845; \$95.00) St. Louis: Warren H. Green, 1983.

Basic Neuroradiology is described by the authors as medium sized but contains 15 chapters and 838 pages. Each chapter covers a single subject and compares in concise but adequate detail pathological changes in CT and, where appropriate, in conventional procedures. The authors have commenced with a chapter on the normal and abnormal plain skull and have used frequent easily understood tables and lists. There is a detailed description of normal vascular anatomy which although it provides a useful reference is perhaps in more detail than necessary. This would not matter if the chapters on the Ear, Para-nasal regions, Larynx and Orbit were not so limited in coverage. This latter chapter is only 40 pages long compared with over 100 for the normal arterial anatomy and 38 for the normal venous anatomy.

Tumours are considered according to the site of the mass and its effect on normal structures on CT and angiography and secondly according to specific pathological processes.

The book is liberally illustrated and the CT scan and subtraction angiograms are of quite adequate quality. I wish I could say the same for the radiographs, some of

which have not produced well, particularly those in chapter one on the skull. The illustrations are, however, clearly annotated and considerably enhance the book without interfering with the text. In particular I like the way the references were grouped at the end of each chapter, mention being made of them in the text against each pathological process discussed.

The chapter on congenital lesions commences with a good summary of the embryology of the nervous system and as with the layout of most of the chapters there are many tables comparing the radiological features (CT, isotope, angiography etc) of different investigations in different disease processes.

A particularly annoying feature of the book is that there are a large number of spelling mistakes, some of which occur even in the main headings, and one can only wonder whether the authors undertook any proof reading at all. Such an oversight would be very annoying and could well have detracted from an otherwise excellent volume, and I can only assume that if the authors revise this text they will correct these mistakes.

Despite these reservations I enjoyed the book immensely and thought that a lot of effort had been put into its preparation. I can thoroughly recommend it for anyone with an interest in modern Neuroradiological techniques, and it could well become one of the standard text books of the 1980's.

DPE KINGSLEY

The Biology of Anxiety. Edited by Roy J Mathew. (Pp 300; \$38.92.) New York: Brunner/Mazel Publishers, 1982.

Twenty years ago the thought of a psychiatric symposium entirely concerned with biological aspects of clinical anxiety would have been inconceivable. Anxiety had been firmly set in its place as a relatively minor disorder that was best studied by behavioural psychologists and psychotherapists. The true stuff of biologically orientated psychiatry would be found in the study of schizophrenia and the affective psychoses. The tide has turned—a little. This valuable book fills several of the gaps in the literature on anxiety, and, unlike many symposium publications, it has avoided the duplication of work that is described much better elsewhere. So instead of rusty accounts of peripheral catecholamines and the endocrinology of anxiety we read about the differentiation of anxiety from other states of arousal

(Lader), changes in cerebral blood flow in anxiety (Mathew and others), the status and significance of the anxiety prone personality (Carey and Herrenkohl), and the anti-anxiety effects of monoamine oxidase inhibitors (Nies and others), beta-blocking drugs (Pitts and Allen) and biofeedback (Rice and Blanchard) rather than the benzodiazepines. There are three terminal chapters on sleep which look a little out of place but as a whole the book succeeds in its aim of educating "the biologically orientated clinician who is interested in current research trends".

PETER TYRER

Psychiatric Aspects of Neurologic Disease Volume II (Seminars in Psychiatry series). Edited by D Frank Benson and Dietrich Blumer. (Pp 325; \$24.50; £16.20) New York: Grune and Stratton Inc. 1982.

In their introduction to the first volume (1977) the authors deplored the neglect of neuropsychiatry, particularly in their own country, sandwiched so it appeared, between the established psycho-analytical schools and the emergent behaviour therapies. The scene looks rosier now and a little of the credit must go to Benson and Blumer. Their team of authors, mostly north American with a strong New England bias, contributed chapters on frontal lobe function, temporal lobe epilepsy, and other favorite borderline topics. No attempt was made to be comprehensive. The second volume follows the same formula and is broadly complementary. There are chapters on epilepsy (3), dementia (4) and movement disorders (1) along with more specialised reviews on such diverse topics as the psychiatry of multiple sclerosis, and stuttering. Especially recommended are alcoholic dementia by Cutting, Goetz and Klawans on tardive dyskinesia and the editors on the psychiatric manifestations of epilepsy, the latter marred only by critical tunnel vision when contemplating the Bostonian revival of the concept of temporal lobe personality. The merit of multi-authorship, each expert addressing his chosen subject, is clear to see. The authors have remarked on its failing, the tendency to unevenness. Certainly the book is uneven, but less on account of stylistic variation, more because of choice of topic and allocation of space. As many pages are allowed for the episodic discontrol syndrome as are given to the whole subject of amnesia, which permits the former a detailed and scholarly review (more, some might say,

than the subject deserves), while the latter can only aim at a level that should prove more suitable for the specialist exam student. In the years between the volumes major text books on neuropsychiatry have appeared making such an approach appear more redundant than seemed the case in 1977. Future volumes might do better to concentrate on detailed reviews and highly selected topics, otherwise the price may come to seem increasingly less competitive.

BRIAN K TOONE

Topics in Child Neurology, Volume 2. Edited by Graham Wise, Michael E Blaw and Peter G Procopis. (Pp 257; £30.95.) Lancs: MTP Press Limited, 1983.

A wide variety of paediatric neurological subjects (intended I suspect for the general paediatrician and neurologist) are dealt with in this book. It is quite interesting in parts but probably fails to attract any specific readership.

The book starts well, with a well written chapter by David Clark on the personalities involved in the neuropathology of childhood. It is followed by good reviews of the antenatal diagnosis of Duchenne muscular dystrophy and its natural history, and the promotion of ambulation by Victor Dubowitz and David Gardner-Medwin. There follow some chapters on epilepsy with a very good review of neuronal events underlying epileptogenesis by David Prince and evolution of the EEG in normal children by Eeg-Ologsson which would be of considerable interest to paediatric neurologists but not of much practical value to the general paediatrician. The chapter on normal EEGs however, may be of considerable value to those who run an EEG service which includes children. The Aicardi and Chevrie paper on the natural history of epilepsy in the first year of life is a very useful summary pointing particularly to the close relationship between infantile spasms and other forms of severe epilepsy occurring at that time. The chapter on anti-convulsant therapy is rather inadequate and poorly referenced. There then follows a series of papers on cerebral metabolism which although they contain useful information, fail to be critical enough for the specialist reader or a sufficient general interest for those whose major concern is practical management. The chapter on catecholamine metabolism by Segawa is a very useful summary of the subject, however.

There are some rather parochial chapters on learning disabilities which fail to