Book reviews

symptoms remain unresolved. Nowhere is anxiety-provoked hyperventilation mentioned as a mechanism of giddiness, a common, possibly the most common, cause of unsteadiness and dizziness, easily reproduced in the clinic without expensive investigation or resort to surgery.

No-one can doubt that pain can arise from the masticatory apparatus ("T" = teeth; "M" = muscles; "J" = joint — Mr. Hamish Thompson) and we as neurologists need to be aware of these structures in the differential diagnosis of face and head pains. We then require dental colleagues, to whom we can refer patients and hear either "Yes, there is trouble in my field that I can treat" or "There is no pathology in my territory" or "I am not sure but I will treat on its own merits what I see wrong and will then refer back to you if necessary". Such colleagues are not easy to find and this book is not reassuring on this practical aspect. It is however valuable to read what can be done although this cautionary aphorism of the late Lord Henry Cohen can be difficult for some specialists to apply, "The feasibility of an operation is no indication for its performance."

JN BLAU

Modern Neurosurgery Volume I. Edited by M Brock. (Pp 484; DM 98: \$43.60.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1982.

This volume of almost 500 pages presents 55 of the 800 papers read at the 7th International Congress in Neurosurgery in Munich in 1981. The 55 papers have been selected very carefully and divided into 10 sections covering a wide range of neurosurgical topics from technical development and head injury to vasospasm and functional neurosurgery. All of the papers which have been selected have something new to offer and are written in a style which makes them easy to follow. The presentation of diagrams, radiographs and so forth is good.

The foreword suggests that this is the first of a series which will be seen as reference volumes presenting an over-view of the specialty every four years. If the standard of the present volume can be maintained then this would seem to be quite possible. The idea is also presented that this volume could act as an introduction to current neurosurgery for undergraduates. This is perhaps a little ambitious although any undergraduate with good motivation and a taste for heavy bedside reading would get some stimulus and benefit from this volume.

CE POLKEY

Phobia: A comprehensive Summary of Modern Treatments. Edited by Robert L DuPont. (Pp 300; \$34.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1982.

A torrent of literature is pouring out on the subject of phobias, and this latest addition reports papers presented at the Second Annual Phobia Conference held in Washington, DC in 1980. Most of it concerns anecdotes about treatment of phobias by a variety of exposure approaches, and some uncontrolled data about outcome. The one controlled study mentioned briefly and incompletely is that of O'Brien *et al* on self-exposure treatment of agoraphobias conducted with and without the active participation of clients's husbands, results to date showing that for most clients behavioural treatment either improved the marriage or had no substantial effect on it. The book is for specialists in phobias to browse in for gleaning some titbits from the American scene rather than for rigorous analysis of critical issues.

ISAAC MARKS

The Craniosynostoses: Causes, Natural History and Management. By David John David, David Poswillo and Donald Simpson. (Pp 331; DM220, £52.00.) Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 1982.

The title of this book may not convey the full extent of the subject matter, which is about developmental skeletal deformities of the skull and facial bones and their correction. Although others were concerned with abnormalities of skull shape, even in the last century, widespread interest did not arise until about thirty-five years ago; this was particularly stimulated by the work of Ingraham, Matson, and Alexander. However, their surgical efforts were restricted to the skull vault, and the stimulus to recommend operation was chiefly the prevention of mental retardation. Later it was shown that the causal relationship between synostosis and mental handicap was less clear than had been thought. The importance of the skull base and facial skeleton as a source of associated abnormality became apparent, as did the association of deformities in the head with those elsewhere. Finally, genetic abnormalities came to be linked with skeletal and other lesions, so that in an appendix to this book no fewer than 59 syndromes are listed. In many of these a chromosomal abnormality has been identified or the manner of inheritance is known.

The authors of this book are part of a

well-known Craniofacial Unit in Adelaide, South Australia, which consists of a plastic surgeon and a neurosurgeon, supported by specialists in all the fields related to the head, including ophthalmology and various dental specialties. Naturally there are anaesthetic and radiological members of the team and a wide range of other important advisers including psychiatrists, nurses and social workers. Their large experience forms the basis of this work. The authors have shown that much can be done to change these deformities towards the norm, and that much more can now be undertaken than was possible in the past. "The concept of cranio-facial surgery is largely based on the fact that the orbits can be safely moved in three dimensions", the maxilla and mandible can be altered, and all this in addition to the "established role of the neurosurgeon in the correction of deformities associated with craniosynostosis".

Enthusiasm for operating on the craniosynostoses waned when it became apparent that normal intellectual development and normal vision could be compatible with certain types of premature sutural fusion. However, it was always clear that there was an urgent need for early surgery in the more severe cases, and recognition has been given to the social and psychiatric trauma that a deviation from an acceptably normal appearance can produce. This alone justifies the undertaking of, not only the relatively simple linear craniectomies of the vault, but also the correction of disfiguring facial lesions.

This book is the most comprehensive work on the subject so far and gives a detailed assessment of present knowledge from a clinical, pathological and anatomical point of view. Current methods of surgical management are reviewed. There is an extensive bibliography and it is well produced. The book is strongly recommended to all who care for young babies in postnatal clinics and obstetric departments, and to plastic surgeons, neurosurgeons and paediatricians. There is a great deal still undiscovered about these conditions, but most people have much they could learn about what is already known. It is a mine of information.

PETER SCHURR

Cytochemical Methods in Neuroanatomy Volume 1 of Neurology and Neurobiology. Edited by Victoria Chan-Palay and Sanford L Palay. (Pp 584; \$96.00.) New York: Alan R Liss, 1982.

This is an excellent book which bears wit-