States, but including two British authors. Their names will be familiar to most readers, as physiologists, psychologists and clinicians who have made major contributions to their subject. They write with authority and provide welcome guidance in a difficult subject.

A reassuring feature is the re-emergence of older ideas which still have considerable validity, even if they have to be refined as a result of experimental research over the last two decades. For example, it is comforting to read that the hypothalamic theory of hunger and satiety has stood the test of time. Thus it is confirmed that lesions of the ventro-medial "satiety centres" cause overeating and obesity, but the influence of these regions on hunger and satiety is more complex than originally supposed. Lateral hypothalamic lesions produce a number of non-specific effects, but there are also specific and severe effects on the regulation of food intake.

There is also a return to "set-point" theory of the regulation of body weight, meaning that physiological mechanisms operate so as to defend a given body weight. Various mechanisms may alter this set-point. They range from "hedonic activity" (eating for pleasure) which raises the set-point, to lateral hypothalamic lesions in animals and gastric surgery in obese patients which lower the set-point.

The quality of the reviews is generally high and several of them are very comprehensive. The chapter on neurotransmitters in the control of feeding goes a long way towards reconciling apparently contradictory experimental findings. The reviewer on the pharmacology of eating and hunger shows that drug effects are not always simple to predict: they can be modulated by conditions such as body weight, state of arousal, and the palatability and nutrient content of the diet. Another chapter is devoted to the role of gut hormones in postprandial satiety. It is proposed that the luminal surface of the gut is a great sensory sheet extending from the mouth to the end of the small intestine and that it is sensitive to the chemical and physical stimuli of food.

There is also much of interest in the chapters on clinical aspects. Treatment is discussed more from the point of view of its appraisal than that of practical measures. An exception is the chapter on the treatment of bulimic patients, for whom a programme of cognitive behaviour therapy is described in detail. The senior editor deserves a special commendation for writing an introduction in which he integrates

succinctly the contributions of the members of his team.

The book is well produced and well written. It is rather expensive but still worth obtaining for the up-to-date and coherent account of this complex subject. It is particularly recommended for clinicians who need guidance in understanding the brain mechanisms underlying eating behaviour and wish to consider theoretical models for the eating disorders they may be called upon to treat.

GERALD RUSSELL

EEG and Evoked Potentials in Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurology. Edited by John R Hughes and William P Wilson. (Pp 411; £29.95.) Sevenoaks: The Butterworth Group, 1983.

The intended audience for this book, as stated in the preface, includes neurologists, psychiatrists and electroencephalographers, who are concerned with the organic bases of behaviour and mental disorders. Such an audience certainly implies a very wide range of interests and skills, thus confronting the authors with a difficult task as to the scope and boundaries of their contributions and, at the same time, providing an indication to the readers of what to expect from the book. The writers have generally found a good outcome to this problem by producing comprehensive, yet concise reviews of the literature on electrophysiological correlates of the clinical entities dealt with, some including summaries of psychopathological syndromes and definitions used.

The book consists of 16 chapters containing topics of interest to the every-day clinical work of psychiatric units, such as EEG and evoked potentials in organic psychiatric conditions, affective disorders and schizophrenia, alcoholism, mental disabilities in childhood; the effects produced by psychotropic drugs and ECT upon neurophysiological tests are also covered. Three chapters deal with unusual EEG patterns and their relation to psychiatric symptomatology. The final chapter is on the interesting and highly controversial topic of the use of the EEG in medicolegal issues. The lists of references at the end of each chapter are adequate and fairly comprehensive; in the opinion of the reviewer there are names missing that she feels should have been included, for example—HF Muller in EEG in senile dementia, JC Shaw and S Butler in the subject of interhemispheric EEG asynchrony,

Ruth F Harris in the various aspects of the EEG in children.

Chapters dealing with the EEG in various psychiatric disorders give a fair account of the state of affairs in the clinical field; I would like to mention those by JG Small on schizophrenia and affective disorders and T Kelly and EL Reilly on the effects of alcohol and alcoholism on the EEG, which are succinct and made interesting. In the chapter on EEG and EC-therapy, RD Weiner raises promising points in relation to the potential value of the test as a monitor during the period of treatment. The chapters on sleep EEG changes in psychiatric patients by V Kupfer and F Reynolds, and CNV and other slow potentials in adult psychiatry by C Shagass give, as expected, a good amount of valuable information; it is unfortunate that these chapters suffer from rather limited illustrations and technical data. The scarcity of technical methodological information and illustrations is general in the book; thus presumably, it was the policy chosen, which the reviewer deplores. One exception are the chapters written by Mary A Andriola, particularly EEG in mental retardation which contain excellent EEG samples. The lack of illustrations is strongly felt in the chapters dealing with intriguing EEG patterns (positive spikes, 6/s spikes, SSS). These EEG items are still a matter of controversy, as JR Hughes makes clear in the text, and this controversy not only concerns their clinical implications, but also the technical measurement of them and their electrophysiological descriptive qualities, hence the importance of illustrating samples.

The volume is well bound and includes a fairly good index, a valuable item, unusual in multiauthored books.

In spite of the limitations noted, I would recommend this book to workers engaged or interested in neuropsychiatry, in particular those who use the electrophysiological tests in their daily clinical work, directly or through clinical neurophysiological departments. They will find helpful, thorough reviews of the literature and also some personal accounts on the theme in this book.

RUTH OBRECHT

Dementia. A Clinical Approach. By Jeffrey L Cummings and D Frank Benson. (Pp 416; £40.00.) Sevenoaks: The Butterworth Group, 1983.

Cummings and Benson have produced a