Book reviews

superb monograph on the condition that modern society faces with increasing frequency. Their approach, as indicated in the title is clinical, with accent on practical matters such as bedside evaluation, differential diagnosis and investigation. The section on the Mental Status Examination is a model of its kind and should be required reading for all neurologists in training. There follow detailed descriptions of all the common (and uncommon) diseases that may cause dementia in adult life. Considerable attention is given to clinical features of the dementia in each disorder, but other neurological manifestations are given their due weight, and there are valuable descriptions of neuropathology and investigative findings. Separate chapters deal with the problems of "Aging and Senility", and the use of "Laboratory Aids to the Diagnosis of Dementia". Here the authors take a firm stance on full investigation, including CT scan and EEG, of all patients presenting with progressive intellectual deterioration. Medically this must be correct; certainly I would wish my physician to follow such a course before consigning me to Shakespeare's second childishness. It is for the politicians to tell me, and my patients, that this is economically impracticable.

The book is so good that it seems churlish to quibble at minor points (for example, the reference to Benson *et al.* 1982 in table 1-1 is not given in the otherwise excellent and extensive bibliography). However, there is one major issue which requires some comment. A firm distinction between cortical and subcortical dementia is drawn and used to divide the volume into separate sections. Thus Alzheimer's disease and Pick's disease are cortical dementias, while extrapyramidal disorders, hydrocephalus and toxic-metabolic conditions are held to cause a different clinical picture of dementia because they "produce maximal dysfunction in the basal ganglia, thalamus and brainstem". This distinction may be too rigid. The recent emphasis on lesions to subcortical structures in substantia innominata in Alzheimer's disease, and the discovery that the demented Parkinsonian has cortical cholinergic deficit, blurs this separation on anatomical and biochemical grounds. The clinical distinctions (for example aphasias in cortical dementias, various early movement disorders in subcortical dementias) may hold, but subtle differences in intellectual and cognitive functions may have more to do with which neurotransmitter systems are involved in the cortex than to where they arise.

Another point of argument is whether Alzheimer's disease can be diagnosed in life on the basis of characteristic clinical features, or whether it is a presumption based upon exclusion of other causes of dementia in the appropriate age group. No doubt in typical cases the subsequent pathological proof of quantitatively significant Alzheimer change in the brain will show a high degree of correlation with clinical diagnosis in life. However, this is less certain in atypical cases and many would still hold to the view that a confident clinical diagnosis cannot be made to cover all presentations of Alzheimer's disease, or to exclude other degenerative conditions. This debate will be resolved by statistical clinico-pathological correlation.

I am sure that Cummings and Benson's book will be used by many. It can be read cover-to-cover by anyone beginning in the field of dementia, and will be an invaluable source of reference to those already engaged in this area.

CD MARSDEN

Cerebral Computed Tomography. A Text-Atlas, 2nd Edition. By Leon Weisberg, Charles Nice & Myron Katz. (Pp 356; £48.00.) London: WB Saunders Co, 1984.

This is one of the dozen or so American text-atlas books now available on cranial computed tomography—all of them as bland, filling and conveniently-packaged as a Macdonald hamburger. Your reviewer having digested the contents of this one experienced no residual hunger, but the prospect of upmarket alternatives left him feeling unfulfilled.

This book is the second edition of one of the first textbooks to appear on CT head scanning—a distinction in itself, indicating the sales success of the original. The new edition consists of twenty chapters of text, each tailed by a list of references, and each appropriately enhanced by diagrams, differential-diagnostic tables and CT images. A total of 368 cases is illustrated, comprising over 1000 carefully chosen scan images, and the clinical information and diagnosis of each patient is given in the caption. This material merits study on its own as a didactic exercise, which would benefit any clinical neurologist or radiologist, young or old, seeking an overview of the subject. It is noticeable that the scans were selected for their information content rather than technical perfection, although none is substandard.

The arrangement of the textual material reflects the multi-disciplinary status of the three authors—a physicist, a neurologist and a radiologist who are respected members of an American teaching hospital. The first four chapters are used to unveil the new technique; they introduce the reader to the principles and technique of computed tomography, describe the applied anatomy of the brain and orbits, and comment upon the impact of scanning on conventional investigative methods. The reviewer feels that this section could have been omitted from the second edition. The titles of the remaining twenty chapters, the clinical part, comprise a mix of topographical and pathological headings and syndrome diagnoses, for example. Progressive Deficit (discussing neoplasms), Rapid Onset Deficit (infarction, haematoma and malformations), Juxtassellar Abnormalities, Pediatric Disorders, Intracranial Calcification and Bone Abnormalities, and so on. They emphasise the difficulty that all authors encounter in choosing a sensible format for discussing CT in intracranial diagnosis, and reveal the confusion that may arise when radiological findings are directly linked to clinical syndromes (rather than in terms of pathology or topography). This approach prompts the question, who was the book written for? Your reviewer, a neuroradiologist, came across passages that were inadequate for his needs, and concluded that the book was more likely to serve the neurologist as a bench reference in his daily practice. As such, it qualifies for a seal of approval as a high-quality, comprehensive account of this now-routine investigation which none should be embarrassed to possess and most will use frequently.

EH BURROWS

Laterality and Psychopathology (Developments in Psychiatry—Vol 6). Edited by Pierre Flor-Henry and John Gruzelier. (Pp 648; \$63.75.) Amsterdam: Elsevier Scientific Publishing Co, 1983.

The First International Conference in Hemispheric Laterality in Psychopathology met at the Charing Cross Hospital in London in 1978. The Second Meeting was held in Banff, Alberta, in 1982. The proceedings of the latter are contained in this volume, one of a series on biological psychiatry from the Elsevier Press.

It has become increasingly apparent that the cerebral hemispheres are specialised not only with respect to language but for

other aspects of higher mental function, perception and effect. The hemisphere dominant for language operates in an analytical and sequential mode; the non-dominant hemisphere is holistic and synthetic. Recognition of these differences has prompted a substantial body of psychiatric research. An early paper by one of the conference editors, Pierre Flor-Henry, focused attention on the psychoses, and here by and large, is where it has remained. In that study of psychotic epileptics, a constellation of clinical phenomena not dissimilar from schizophrenia was found to be associated with epileptic foci in the left hemisphere; less obviously, affective symptomatology was linked with right hemisphere foci. Although this analysis and interpretation of data was not without its critics, it massively influenced subsequent research; confirmation flowed in from a variety of sources.

Psychiatry, however, was never likely to be so simple. The passage of time and the scepticism of unsympathetic reviewers has dealt harshly with laterality theory; but if some of the old certainty has departed, the uncommitted reader should welcome the more critical and objective mood of the Canadian meeting. Studies in affective disorders and schizophrenia again predominate and neuropsychology and psychophysiology each account for a third of the space; but work on personality disorder, neurosis and alcoholism is presented and there are useful chapters on CT scanning techniques, PET and cerebral circulation. The quality of contributions varies considerably and some of the text is slackly edited. Few of the papers contain summaries, a crucial omission in so technical an area. Indeed this is very much a workshop book for the cognocenti and definitely not for those seeking an introduction to the subject. The former, those at least who failed to make the journey to Banff, may feel that the opportunity to keep abreast of a tantalisingly difficult subject justifies the not inconsiderable price of the book.

BK TOOME

Imaging of Infections and Inflammations of the Central Nervous System: Computed Tomography, Ultrasound and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance. By Dieter Enzmann. (Pp 360; \$68.50.) New York: Raven Press, 1983.

Unlike many radiological textbooks, this is a serious work, for which the author is to be highly commended. Although amply

and informatively illustrated, it is far more than an atlas. Major chapters are devoted to focal and diffuse parenchymal infections, infection in hosts with compromised immunity, and to acute meningitis. The first of these is excellent, including extensive references; however, I remain unconvinced by the contradictory arguments adduced for the radiological differentiation of cerebritis and abscess.

The book's balance is distorted by epidemiological accident: British readers will find it odd that cysticercosis merits considerably greater space than tuberculosis, which is much commoner worldwide. Indeed, some of the statements about the latter (rarity of brain stem lesions; frequency of calcium deposition) suggest very limited direct experience. The same is true of cerebral malaria and hydatid disease (illustrated by one markedly atypical example). Omission of demyelinating disease of unknown aetiology in a text on central nervous system inflammations may also reflect the low incidence of multiple sclerosis in northern California. However, discussion of these conditions would have been more germane than the extended explanation of magnetic resonance imaging which dominates the introductory chapter.

Dr Enzmann's writing is uneven, but quintessentially American: punchy and ponderous by turns; fortunately, the former tone predominates. The illustrations are generally excellent, although I was not always certain that the text referred to the correct figure; I found only one inverted image. The bibliography is splendid, but the index poor: as a single example, *papovavirus*, mentioned on pages 130 and 289, fails to appear in it.

Only one further geographically-imposed drawback restrains me from giving this handsome publication the highest recommendation: the exchange rate, which currently inflates its price to almost £50.

IVAN MOSELEY

Neurological Evaluation of Infants and Children (Clinics in Developmental Medicine Nos. 84/85). By Henry W Baird and Eleanor C Gordon. (Pp 249; £12.00.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1983.

Neurological Examination of Children by the late Richmond Paine and Thomas Oppé seemed to be one of those timeless masterpieces, that acted as a guide as well as a bible to trainee paediatricians and trainee neurologists. The value of that text

has been beyond dispute and must surely have lead Spastics International Medical Publications towards commissioning a new version of this book some 17 years after the original appeared.

The new title *Neurological Evaluation of Infants and Children* differs slightly but significantly from the former. The authors of this book, Henry Baird and Eleanor Gordon, hail from Philadelphia. The difference in title is probably not purely of semantic significance but reflects a newer approach that has evolved over the last decade to a child with a suspected neurological disorder.

The book is divided into 11 chapters each of which have comprehensive discussions in which attempts are made to relate the clinical phenomena under discussion with specific disease states. Illustrations are almost exclusively line drawings which at times are often rather poor representations of true clinical material. Furthermore, the comments on specific disease states, at times are inaccurate, sometimes too brief to be instructive and must inevitably lead to some confusion in the minds of those with lesser experience. There are quite a large number of typographical, grammatical and spelling errors within the book.

But in spite of these reservations it must surely be important to consider the book as a whole. It is the opinion of this reviewer that like its predecessor it is a vital and valuable book which would be welcomed to at least any department of paediatric or neurology. The text that is being presented should be of interest and value to a very wide readership. For the paediatrician it provides immense detail in terms of neurological function, while to the neurologist a great deal in the way in which a child with a neurological dysfunction differs from an adult. For students of either these two specialities is a most worthy introduction to the subject. But more than this it should be recommended reading to any medical student. Further, it should be able to provide a valuable service to members of other professions allied to medicine—physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and many other similar professions.

The authors deserve to be congratulated and also thanked for the valuable service that they have rendered.

GWILYM HOSKING