Book reviews

barely mentioned.

The book contains little that can be of interest to those working in the field of cerebral specialization of cognitive functions. Those who may benefit from this publication are students being initiated in the field of neuro-psychology.

M WYKE

Functions of the Right Cerebral Hemisphere. Edited by Andrew W Young. (Pp 235; \$38.00.) London: Academic Press Inc, 1984.

This multi-authored volume provides quite a useful review of our present knowledge of many of the functions of the right cerebral hemisphere. The book is written by neuropsychologists and is naturally concerned with those topics that have been most amenable to current methods of neuropsychological analysis. There are for example individual chapters dealing with visuospatial abilities, facial perception, music and language capabilities of the right hemisphere. Conspicuously, emotion, affect and from the pathological point of view, neglect and denial are omitted or barely mentioned. The book is certainly a worthwhile source of reference for the neurologist who needs up-dating on the neuropsychological aspects of those topics which it covers and which in the main are well reviewed. For all but a few however it will be for reference only.

JOHN MEADOWS

Differential Diagnosis in Neuropsychiatry. By Jeremy K A Roberts. (Pp 377; £17.00.) Chichester: John Wiley & Sons, 1984.

Dr Roberts, a British-trained psychiatrist working in Canada, has written a book that attempts, as its title asserts, to approach neuropsychiatry with a particular regard to the problems of examination, investigation and differential diagnosis. Almost inevitably, given the complexities of his subject, the book has ended up rather more than that and closer to a standard medium sized textbook of neuropsychiatry with its chapters organised in terms of syndromes rather

than disease entities. Thus, after introductory sections on history taking, mental state evaluation and neurological examination and on investigatory techniques, there follow chapters on aggression, delirium, dementia, catatonia and stupor, and so on. The book is rounded off by a series of case studies in neuropsychiatry.

There is certainly a need for a comprehensive but not over long neuropsychiatry primer. This book, in spite of its particular formula, may for the moment meet such a need but not without a few reservations. Recent published works in particular receive good coverage but are often quoted rather uncritically. There is at times a little too much theoretical speculation for a book the purpose of which is essentially practical and clinical. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, edition 3 (DSM 3) is a pervasive presence throughout the book. This is not altogether a bad thing; as a diagnostic classification it has much more to offer than the ICD; but the transatlantic addiction to operative definitions has led to a proliferation of unfamiliar syndromes and acronyms, some inappropriately grandiose for example the Central Anticholinergic Syndrome (CAS), others slightly comical, such as the Isolated Explosive Disorder.

This is to dwell overmuch on the less satisfactory aspects of the book. By and large it achieves the aims set out by the author. It provides a condensed and informed account of its subject that will be of value both to the MRC Psych examinees and to the junior doctors confronted by diagnostic dilemmas.

BK TOONE

Advances in Epileptology. The XVth Epilepsy International Symposium. Edited by Roger J Porter, Richard H Mattson, Arthur A Ward Jr & Mogens Dam. (Pp 709; \$142.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1984.

This volume includes a wide selection of topics based on the XVth Epilepsy International Symposium held in Washington, DC in September 1983. It contains 113 contributions (chosen from the 450 presented at the meeting) and (as one might expect) almost half of them emanate from the United States.

The chapters have been arranged in 14 sections starting with basic studies on neurotransmitters, and the emission tomography. The section on antiepileptic drug binding includes sceptical views about

the value of monitoring free levels. Sections follow on the disposition of drugs and hormones during pregnancy, and then on teratogenesis, clinical trials and surgery. The last three sections on employability, the government's role in epilepsy prevention and treatment and in providing support services, and the establishment of a National Epilepsy Resource Center are well worth reading.

Although the volume brings together a great deal of useful information, it is really rather a jumble of disconnected contributions, not all of which have been placed under their appropriate section headings and many have already been published elsewhere. True there is something here for most who want to know what research on epilepsy has been going on but it is difficult to see the justification for publishing so much on such varied topics at such a ridiculously high price.

Those interested in the history of the scientific meetings sponsored by the international epilepsy community since the International League Against Epilepsy was established in Budapest in 1909 should turn to the fascinating review by JJ Cereghino tucked away in the middle of the book towards the end of a section misleadingly labelled *Clinical Aspects of Epilepsy*. In conclusion we read that the 1983 congress represents the last of the annual Epilepsy International symposia which are to be replaced by an International Congress every 2 years. So the XVIth EI Symposium is to be held in Hamburg in September 1985. Let us hope, if publication of its proceedings is considered necessary, that more thought is given to ensure that the format and content come out of orbit and the cost spirals down to earth.

MICHAEL ESPIR

Head and Neck Injuries in Sports. By Stephen E Reid & Stephen E Reid Jr. Also Stephen E Long & Gil Raviv. (Pp 198; \$27.00.) Illinois: Charles C Thomas, 1984.

The title is somewhat misleading as this book is largely concerned with head and neck injury in a single sport—American football. It is thus of limited interest to a neurological audience on this side of the Atlantic, especially as many of the injuries which are received in that sport result from its special rules and circumstances; for instance they may be caused by the violent manipulation of the helmets and face-