cludes with an account of research into the diagnostic process undertaken at the University of Vermont.

The authors deliberately interweave the solution to various clinical problems with the acquisition of basic knowledge and to an extent this does make for a more stimulating impact than is provided by more orthodox texts. But to ensure that the whole enterprise amounts to more than a disjointed if engaging read, such a book needs, to name but one crucial element, a first class index. Straightaway we encounter problems. Suicide is one of the clinical issues in psychiatry which does really divide the clinical sheep from the goats, and as such might be expected to figure rather prominently in such a book as this, but the index provides no entry and one has to jump backwards and forwards through the book to find any reference to it. No systematic assessment of the potentially suicidal patient is provided and similar omissions are to be found relating to the evaluation of the early phase of mania, the genetic role in disorders such as dementia and manic-depressive illness and the dilemmas faced by relatives trying to manage schizophrenic patients oscillating between the positive and negative phases of the disorder. Such neglect is all the more notable given the detail and care with which such issues as illness behaviour, the neural regulation of behaviour and the reliability of categorical diagnoses are considered.

The authors clearly hope that their approach will sharpen the vision of all those involved in education for clinical practice and no doubt their penchant for rather complicated flow-chart diagrams and dense multi-axial formulation reflects this earnest intention. It is doubtful, however, that any, other than the most conscientious and dedicated reader, will actually find this book any more conducive to thinking than the enormous, and sadly growing, compendium of available, equally massive if more orthodox textbooks of psychiatry.

AW CLARE

Intracranial Pressure VI. Edited by J Miller, GM Teasdale, JO Rowan, SL Galbraith, AD Mendelow. (Pp 798; DM 240.00.) Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 1986.

This volume contains the 150 papers and the two short reviews presented at the ICP VI Conference in Glasgow in June 1985. This whole series is a most valuable source of

reference to the serious student of intracranial pressure but makes no concession to the novitiate. Inevitably, the book is indigestible.

Topics covered include the cause and consequences of traumatic intracranial hypertension, pressure volume relationships, resistance to CSF outflow, the autonomic and vascular causes of increased ICP, methods of measurement, pulse wave form analysis, the structural, functional and vascular consequences of raised ICP, hydrocephalus and CSF circulation, haemorrhage, ischaemia and other focal lesions, therapy and clinical uses of ICP monitoring.

Many of the papers presented at the ICP Conferences since 1972 have never appeared in fully refereed form and yet often contain novel ideas and much valuable information that has stood the test of time. Neurosurgeons are notoriously slow writers. ICP VI should be on the shelf of every medical library for consultation by the ever increasing spectrum of clinicians and scientists interested in problems of intracranial haemodynamics.

JD PICKARD

Tolerance to Beneficial and Adverse Effects of Antiepileptic Drugs. Edited by H-H Frey, W Froscher, WP Koella, H Meinardi. (Pp 192; \$36.50.) New York: Raven Press, 1986.

One of the more displeasing aspects of medical jargon is the tendency to borrow words from the venacular and to pervert their meaning. The word "tolerance" is a good example. The OED defines this as "the power or capacity of enduring", the absolute reverse of the meaning of the word in the title of this volume. Furthermore, in the first chapter, WP Koella exposes what one always suspected, that even the medical uses of the word are ill-defined. He discusses the use of the terms cross tolerance, rebound tolerance, natural tolerance, acquired tolerance, negative tolerance, true negative tolerance (sic), metabolic tolerance and functional tolerance, and there appears to be much confusion. He concludes "... what we simply refer to as tolerance, by no means is a simple, and certainly not a monistic, phenomenon. In fact, a multitude of in part peripheral, in part central factors seem to contribute to the often more rapidly, often more slowly developing attenuation in real or apparent potency of a drug..." Tolerance

must certainly be a complicated issue, but surprisingly not much has been written about it, partly I suspect because of the difficulties in carefully studying the phenomenon. While definition and investigation may be difficult, patients seem to have no doubt of the importance of the issue, and physicians are commonly faced with patients who feel that the effects of an antiepileptic drug are wearing off. This book is a report of a workshop held in 1985, and whether it really adds much of worth to the literature is rather doubtful. It comprises 18 chapters, 11 of which report experimental work and seven clinical work. The overall standards are satisfactory, although some chapters are rather insubstantial and the more valuable contributions have all been published elsewhere. The volume will probably appeal only to those with a very particular interest in the subject, and while an epilepsy library might usefully contain a copy, I doubt whether its inclusion in a general neurology library would be justified. In the interests of economy, camera ready copy has been used, and the result is an untidy melange of typesetting which does the publisher no credit.

SIMON SHORR

Control of Human Voluntary Movement. John C Rothwell. (Pp 325; £35.00/£17.50 p/bk.) Beckenham: Croom Helm, 1987.

In this useful book, the author begins by reviewing some relevant properties of muscles, sensory receptors and spinal reflexes; he then works up the nervous system with sections on ascending and descending pathways, cerebral cortex, cerebellum and basal ganglia. Postural control, eye-movement, and speech are not included. The treatment of each topic is brief, but the main points are presented clearly, and with ample references.

The author is a physiologist, and the emphasis is on the physiology of motor control; he brings together information from widely different sources. Thus, most sections include some anatomy, some information from animal experiments, and from experimental observations on human subjects. The brief descriptions of clinical conditions will help the non-clinical reader.

The book will be very useful for advanced students. Also, neurologists and neurophysiologists will find that the book brings together a lot of useful information, and