therapeutic change" is particularly well written with a critical analysis of the reasons for the conflicts and paradoxes found in the current body of literature on the appearance and underlying biophysics of haemorrhage and traumatic haemorrhagic tissue of different ages in different situations and imaged with different sequences at different field strengths. Commonly seen but seldom explained changes noted in routine imaging following chemotherapy or surgery are then discussed. Their practical clinical consequences are emphasised.

The main text ends with a glossary of MRI terms which although useful are not controversial, have been well described in many other books and this section is really superfluous. Two useful appendices follow: the first uses a selection of inversion recovery and spin echo sequences to display a well labelled multiplanar atlas of the brain, skull base and orbit in 30 large format illustrations. The second comprises a description of protocols found useful on a 0.5T Picker Vista MR scanner with a reference to an alternative set for other machines. These provide sensible guidelines for routine imaging and cover the majority of cranial neurodiagnostic problems including paediatric evaluation. A comprehensive integrated index to the text, tables and figures completes the book.

Overall, the quality of the illustrations is variable with most being routine clinical images rather than perfect examples of the current state of the art. Many are poorly printed with a rather reduced range of grey tones and unfortunately in one or two, labelled structures are not visible to the reader but in the majority, lesions are either obvious or clearly arrowed. In most the pulse sequence used to obtain the section is stated with only the occasional omission which the author himself warns the reader about on page 21. For example, Fig. 4-4B, page 55, is supposed to be a T1-weighted image but the grey matter is bright and the white matter dark—usually the appearance of a T2-weighted sequence despite the lipoma giving a hyperintense signal. This highlights the problem of using these terms in isolation without defining the field strength and sequence. There are occasional lapses where a lesion is described as being isointense with brain but the reader is not told whether this means grey or white matter. The general appearance of the text is marred by several poorly printed pages and multiple spelling errors which should have been corrected in the proof.

The author says that he tries to separate fact from opinion and uncorroborated data:

however, this strategy is dependent on the quality and analysis of the references quoted. These are listed alphabetically at the end of each chapter but as is the case with most books, despite some additions at the proof stage, they appear dated. It is mitigated to some extent by using 1987 conference proceedings rather than referred journals but unfortunately they are often only abstracts and difficult for the reader to obtain unless he is a member of the society or has been to the conference. MRI is such a fast moving subject that up-to-date references are essential.

As a single author text it has the advantage of consistency of style and although didactic at times, it covers the subjects critically and in adequate depth to be clinically useful. A compact informative volume of 423 pages, it is an easily readable collection of facts which is good value at £75 and is pitched at a level that will prove useful to radiologists, neurologists and neurosurgeons who have just acquired MRI facilities. It covers many unusual presentations of common diseases as well as a sprinkling of rare lesions making it a good aide memoire for the more experienced. It would also be an ideal reference for any doctor who wishes to assess the significance of an MRI report on a patient with a cranial problem referred by him to a radiodiagnostic department.

DONALD M HADLEY

The American Psychiatric Press Textbook of Neuropsychiatry. Edited by Robert E Hales, Stuart C Yudofsky. (Pp 490; £35.00.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Prior to this century, psychiatrists were neuropsychiatrists, and it was axiomatic that they understood the brain and its influence in disease states. When a majority of them opted to become psychologists and social workers, the brain was left to neurology, and a Cartesian brace froze further understanding of the relationship between the brain and behaviour. In the last 20 years, neuropsychiatry has been rejuvenated, partly on account of the growing number of patients who are dissatisfied with the care that this dichotomy between neurology and psychiatry provides for them, and secondly because of the rapid expansion of the neurosciences with its explosion of knowledge regarding brain/behaviour relationships. With the backing of the American Psychiatric Association, which this book has,

the discipline will be given a welcome boost, and no doubt many enthusiastic students will be encouraged to adopt this as the definitive manual for the subject.

This, however, is a disappointing book. There are other much better books on neuropsychiatry available some of which, being single authored, bring homogeneity to the discipline and to the text. It is not clear why the particular authors who wrote chapters in this text were chosen, and what their particular expertise in the field of neuropsychiatry is. However, there is much unevenness in the book, and this reviewer began to lose confidence in the expertise that was being offered. A few examples for illustration: the lack of mention of the use of the electroencephalogram in the diagnosis of delirium, and in dementia only "if there is a specific clinical indication"—Picks's disease or Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, for example, do not appear to be included; interictal epileptic psychosis is said to have a prevalence of 10%–30% amongst patients with complex partial seizures; the starting dose for valproic acid is given as 1500 mg; in the chapter on degenerative diseases, such conditions as myaesthesia gravis, Guillain-Barré, syringomyelia and dystonia are included, etc. It is possible to go on. The range of some of the authors is simply patronising, "dementia is a disease of the brain, not of the mind, and is not a functional disorder", while others introduce neologisms that put the reader's teeth on edge, e.g. "dehisterogenic".

The content of the book is said to "define disease entities that should be subsumed under the rubric of neuropsychiatry", but the choice not all would agree with. Post-traumatic neurotic syndromes are not covered under head injuries, and a substantial selection of the authors is given over to endocrine, vitamin and metabolic disorders which are more appropriately adumbrated with organic psychiatry, and, as with most of the conditions described here, are much better covered in Lishman's elegant text in the subject.

The best one can say of this book is that it is nicely laid out and visually satisfying. It is hoped that those that buy it will not have their interest in neuropsychiatry dampened, and that some of them will go on to gain clinical experience in the area which clearly seems to have been lacking by some of the contributors.

MICHAEL R TRIMBLE