Book reviews

Depression and coexisting disease. Edited by ROBERT G ROBINSON and PETER V RABINS. (Pp 242; \$29.95.) Igaku-Shoin Medical Publishers Inc, 1989.

This book contains 16 chapters written by 27 authors, most of whom are American psychiatrists. Most of the chapters deal with depression in groups of diseases such as cardiac, renal or endocrine disease. Four chapters are of specific neurological interest: depression in stroke, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis respectively. I wondered why epilepsy had been omitted. Two chapters, on depression in chronic pain and in Aids are perhaps of less direct interest. The authors assume a working knowledge of the American Psychiatric Association diagnostic criteria, DSM III—R which, I believe, few British neurologists will have at their finger tips. Certainly, the statement that 98 per cent of chronic pain patients have 'DSM III axis 1 disorder' and 37 per cent an 'axis 2' disorder did not do much for me.

Depression is surprisingly common in unselected patients both in primary care and on hospital wards. The 'neurological' chapters indicate that depression in these conditions may be more common than would be expected, given the chronic illness and disability. Various hypotheses are offered, some chapters attempting a brief general review of the subject, some concentrating on the authors' own research.

This book is intended for primary care physicians and psychiatrists. I doubt if it is of interest to British neurologists. It is of little help as a practical guide and offers (even to a neurologist) little new in the way of therapy. Those with a more specialist interest in the specific neurological diseases covered in these chapters will almost certainly find better accounts elsewhere.

BRF LECKY

Computed Cranial and Spinal Imaging A Practical Introduction. By JOHN M STEVENS, ALAN R VALENTINE and BRIAN E KENDALL. (Pp 248; Price not stated.) Heinemann Medical, 1989.

This book is a sequel to *A Practical Introduction to Cranial CT* which was first published in 1981, though only one of the authors has been involved in both publications. It is both exciting and disturbing to witness the development of the intervening seven years which made the new edition overdue.

The original publication reflected the pre-eminent position that CT had attained in

neuroradiology, however the images were mainly from the EMI 1010 scanner, and they look outdated now. "*Computed Cranial and Spinal Imaging*" emphasises the importance of MRI, and inevitably it is a rather larger book. The practical layout is similar to its precursor, with chapters on cranial pathology grouped around anatomical compartments such as the extracerebral spaces. The chapter on neuroanatomy is much more detailed than before, as befits the demand of modern CT and MRI, though on occasions I felt it was excessively detailed for a text of this sort. Inevitably there is discussion of the basic physics of MR and of imaging sequences, some of which is only intelligible if you think you already understand it. The section on the petrous bone is new, as is a fine chapter on the spine. The images are generally good and are reproduced as well as can be expected for a book that is cheap by radiological standards. Figures 5:7 and 7:14 have been wrongly orientated by the publisher, but I could find few other errors. In places the emphasis of the text is unbalanced by the individual interests of the authors, such as in the discussion of deformation of the cord.

The first edition became the standard text for newcomers to neuro-radiology. This new edition fulfills that task, but has a much broader scope and will be of value to more experienced clinicians as well. I think it is a superb book.

R BARTLETT

Advances in neuro-oncology. Edited by PAUL L KORNBILTH and MICHAEL D WALKER. (Pp 560; \$75.00.) Futura Publishing Co, 1989.

This multi author book, edited by Paul Kornblith and Michael Walker, is divided into three major sections dealing respectively with basic studies in brain tumour biology, diagnosis and therapy.

The first section is by far the longest and contains extensively annotated review articles on cell-type specific markers, parameters of glial differentiation, tumour antigenicity, tumour angiogenesis, and discussions of the importance of the fibrinolytic system, of oncogenes and of virus initiation of CNS tumours. Each article has a helpful introduction and summary although the meat of the contributions would be of primary interest to those working in the field. References to the literature are both copious and up to date.

The chapter on imaging in diagnosis gives a useful overview, but is marred by the poor quality of many of the pictures. The remainder of this section covers the expanding field

of the use of mono-clonal antibodies and the value of CSF studies in the management of brain tumours. As with the rest of the book, there are copious and helpful references to the literature in these topics.

The value of image guided stereotaxy is covered in a rather disappointing chapter detailing experience with the BRW system until 1985. The considerable advances in instrumentation over the last two or three years was not covered.

The last section of the book is concerned with treatment: there are clear and comprehensive chapters on radiobiology, external beam irradiation and brachy-therapy, whilst chemotherapy, immunotherapy and differentiation therapy are all well covered.

This not unreasonably priced book can confidently be recommended for a place in any neuroscience library and gives excellent source references for those who wish to read more widely.

AE BOOTH

The Diagnosis and Management of Orbital Tumours. Edited by EDWARD R LAWS, JR. (Pp 316; Price: \$55.00.) New York: Futura Publishing Co, 1989.

The forward indicates that this is the first book dealing with orbital tumours by a neurosurgeon since Dandy's famous book in 1941. The book has been supported by a number of other experts in ophthalmology, radiology, neurosurgery and otorhinolaryngology who have written several of the chapters. After a brief review of the anatomy of the orbit there are 60 pages on clinical neurophysiology which seem to relate visual fields to neurophysiological assessment. There is discussion of patterned ERG's and a number of case histories. This is followed by chapter on diagnostic imaging with a large number of skull x-rays and optical canal views which would now seem irrelevant in the diagnosis of orbital lesions.

The standard of illustration is not of high quality and there is no mention of refinements of MRI scanning such as the use of gadolinium and STIR sequencing. The main thrust of the book is on transcranial surgical approaches to the orbit and this obviously relates to the interest of the author. The final chapters are on meningioma where the optic nerve sheath meningioma is covered in less than a page and there is also a short chapter on optic nerve gliomas. There was no major mention of thyroid ophthalmopathy and metastatic disease which are some of the commonest conditions to affect the orbit.