edition since it first came out in 1962. However, as the book has undergone some significant changes it is perhaps worth commenting about its role and present value in the current climate of neurology.

In this edition the original author has adopted a younger colleague and he modestly writes that having repeatedly revised and rewritten a book over more than a quarter of a century "one realises one is getting a bit long in the tooth and new blood needs to be infused into its veins". As the authors say in the preface there are few changes in the technique of neurological examination but the interpretation of findings on examination and the relative importance of certain physical signs have significantly altered, as, methods of investigation during the past few years have shown considerable advance. How then does the book measure up in the light of these advances?

It begins with some introductory chapters describing the approach to the neurological patient, the equipment required and the techniques of taking a history and performing an examination. In general these chapters are excellent and there are few comments to make. The photograph depicting the instruments required for a neurological examination is probably unnecessary and certainly it shows its age with a very ancient looking ophthalmoscope. In the section on reflexes there is included the cremasteric reflex which most people find unhelpful and yet there is no comment on the diagnostically more valuable bulbo-cavernosus reflex. Though the latter reflex is only rarely performed it can be of considerable value in the assessment of a patient with impotence. I was also somewhat surprised to see tonic neck reflexes mentioned which in adults are excessively rare and of no diagnostic value.

There are separate chapters on the assessment of certain specialised areas of examination including the assessment of the unconscious patient, the assessment of speech, apraxia and agnosia, and a separate and important section on the autonomic nervous system. Again, in general, I found these informative and full of common sense. In the section on the unconscious patient equal emphasis is given to radioisotope scanning, electroencephalography, echoencephalography and computerised axial tomography and this in the modern era is surely somewhat unbalanced. I personally would like radioisotope scanning of the brain to be abolished completely as it usually simply confirms one's suspicion that the patient has something wrong with his brain but does not tell you what it is.

A new chapter entitled "Towards a Balan-

ced Attitude" is included and this looks at the why's and wherefore's of performing a specific investigation in a particular patient. This is a difficult area and the section in my view adopts a sensible attitude. However, I think it would have been appropriate to have a section on the investigation of old people. This is a difficult and controversial area and the investigation of subarachnoid haemorrhage, dementia and epilepsy in old people needs careful thought and surely is worthy of mention.

The final sections are concerned with investigations and these sections have been expanded to include comment regarding magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET). The latter is certainly an interesting technique but most unlikely ever to provide useful clinical information for those of us in the average neurological practice. The section on neurophysiological techniques covers the standard tests available for routine use and includes a section on evoked potentials. I was surprised, however, to see no comment regarding single fibre EMG as this is now a well established technique. The appendices contain some helpful summaries of components of the neurological examination though there is an error in appendix D "The Glasgow Coma Scale".

Despite what I regard as the minor quibbles above this is an excellent book and one to be warmly recommended to those in neurological training. Like Bryan Matthews' book "Practical Neurology", it is a volume that most neurologists will wish to own and most of us, I suspect, would have been proud to write.

NEF CARTLIDGE

Surgery of the peripheral nerves. (Piccin Surgical Techniques Series—Vol. XIV). By G MORELLO and F PLUCHINO. (Pp 392; £136.00.) Published by Piccin Nuova Libreria (Italy) U.K. Distrib: Gazelle Book Services (Lancaster) 1989.

The bold type and full page colour drawings make this an immediately attractive book. It is Volume XIV of the Piccin Surgical Technique series originating from Italy. The text has been translated into English producing occasionally odd phraseology, and such variations as the use of "neurinoma" for neurilemmoma. The basic message is clear and in association with most lucid colour illustrations of the detailed structure of peripheral nerves the text clarifies the need to use accurate micro-suture of the perineurium of

individual fascicles for nerve repair rather than crude apposition of the epineurium.

The account of traumatic peripheral nerve lesions and regeneration follows the classical work of Sunderland and Seddon. There is a small section on peripheral nerve tumours but the majority of the volume is devoted to the details of micro-nerve suture and then a series of beautifully illustrated exposures of individual peripheral nerves provides a valuable reference book for the surgeon heavily involved in this type of work. It is more questionable as to whether or not this particular highly technical specialisation is part of neurosurgery or orthopaedic surgery but there is certainly a valuable place for its development by someone in any area concerned with trauma patients. For such surgeons this book is a welcome and admirable volume.

GORDON BROCKLEHURST

Topographic Brain Mapping of EEG and Evoked Potentials. Edited by K MAURER. (Pp 576; DM198.00 H/b.) Berlin: Springer, 1989.

The impetus for this book and sharing its title was an international symposium held at an unmentioned date in Wurzburg, West Germany. The volume is the ultimate in brain mapping. The author of each of the 56 chapters is the relevant world authority on the subject. Therefore, it is definitely not merely an ego trip when they refer mainly to their own work in the reference list following their chapter: it is sheer necessity. Who else to quote but the unique expert in the field?

It is the *dernier crie* in brain cartography. However, one cannot easily avoid the feeling that the great wealth of data was obtained, rather was "caught" and described almost *statu nascendi*; and here lies the strength as well as the weakness of the book. A spirit of immediacy, enthusiasm, marvel and delight emanates from the pages, rooted no doubt in the vast unexplored fields and the potentially wonderful avenues waiting to be discovered. This spirit is comparable to that of the pioneers who had set out to build the new discovered continent; or, closer to home, reminiscent of the spirit of Adrian, Greaves, Walter and the other pioneers of the EEG half a century ago.

Papers written by such personalities as Lehmann, Petsche, Duffy and Desmedt are truly statesmanlike, exposing theories, guidelines, interpretations, warnings and pitfalls, past and future. Bordering on philosophy these articles are gathered under the collective title "State of the Art" conveying masterfully exactly that. The methodology

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section presumes and indeed needs prior familiarity with the subject.

In the clinical, the psychiatric and the psychophysiological sections we get a treat of a very wide range of topics. From the obvious, for instance the use of mapping in epilepsy, the various dementias and psychoses, coma and in MS; through the less expected, for example, Addison's disease, dyslexia, right up to the exotic: a description of a movie featuring the brain during an all-night sleep complete, three dreams included. Several papers deal with imaging before and after therapy, including pharmacological and electrical, a domain where predictably brain mapping may prove to be particularly useful. Several, perhaps too many papers are based on recordings on around ten patients or less, down to one.

Inevitable in an anthology, the language and style are uneven. Expressions not in common usage, for example "anteriorization," are freely used without prior definition. There are too many heavy, long sentences so at times one gets an urge to take antacids for easier digestibility. Seemingly the proof reading had to be done in a great hurry so several "meningeomata" and the like were overlooked. Our very own Pampiglione in the text became Pampiglione a few pages later in the reference. *Tertium non datur*, he never had a chance to recover his true identity. The abundant illustrations of coloured maps are beautiful.

All electrophysiologists, clinical or research will have an interest in the book. This volume is excellent in reminding the reader that brain mapping is essentially a very effective new form of display with no new information involved; that the wealth of experience rests on the raw EEG data, which should not be neglected; that it becomes increasingly difficult to keep in mind the patient, the clinical and the physiological problems and to avoid the entanglement with problems caused by the computers; that it is hoped cartography may enhance our understanding of how the brain functions. We are reminded that brain mapping is not here to diagnose but to provide important pieces of information useful in establishing a diagnosis; that it is valuable in group comparison studies and of no practical value in the diagnosis of individual cases.

To conclude, I shall finish by quoting Duffy's closing remarks: 'It is an exciting time. The field is at its beginning and it is not yet time to summarise.'

M ELIAN

Pathology of tumours of the nervous system — Fifth Edition. By DOROTHY S RUSSELL and LUCIEN J RUBINSTEIN. (Pp 1012 Illustrated. Price: £110.00.) London: Edward Arnold, 1989.

The fifth edition of this textbook in 1989 recalls the memorable appearance in 1959 of the first edition, which set a new standard for a monograph on a group of tumours. Dorothy Russell was a remarkable medical scientist, and the 1959 textbook, written together with her distinguished pupil Lucien Rubenstein, was her masterpiece, and will always remain a classic text in neuropathology. Subsequent editions in the intervening thirty years have amply maintained the preeminence of this textbook over all other competitors.

This fifth edition, now comprising over 1000 pages, is a massive compendium of data, descriptions, illustrations, and references, dealing with all aspects of tumours of the nervous system. It is not only a descriptive text essential for the diagnosis of tumours, but also an extensive database for research in neuro-oncology. Modern techniques, such as electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry, and cell, tissue, and organ culture are dealt with in detail, but, also there is much information and discussion, on theories of neural tumour formation.

This fifth edition is almost entirely the work of the second author who generously insists on mentioning the help of Dorothy Russell, who died in 1983. The book is handsomely produced and is excellent value for money. It will naturally be purchased by any neuropathologist who deals with neural tumours, but most histopathologists and neurosurgeons would find its acquisition an investment.

JT HUGHES

Mechanisms of drug action on the nervous system. 2nd Edition By RW RYALL. (Pp 232; £27.50 H/b.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.

One of the pleasures of reviewing books is the exposure to volumes which would otherwise escape attention. Probably few neurologists would set out to read this slim and concise text and would thus miss a useful review of a subject which is central to our practice.

The book devotes two chapters to a brief introduction and description of neuropharmacological techniques before describing in detail the pharmacology of the neuromuscular junction, autonomic nerves and then

the central nervous system. The bulk of the book is concerned with the latter which is where most recent developments have occurred and also where the apparent profusion of neurotransmitters and receptors is most confusing for the non-specialist. Several chapters have little immediate relevance for the neurologist and some important areas receive scant attention. Thus anaesthesia, analgesia, schizophrenia and depression are well covered; Alzheimers disease, Huntington's chorea and extra-pyramidal disorders rather less so.

I found the book useful both to revise my existing knowledge of neuropharmacology and to extend it. As a non-pharmacologist the pure neuropharmacology sections were clear with appropriate use of diagrams and sensible discussion of the many areas of controversy. The non-clinical background of the author is obvious when he turns his attention to pathological states which are in general very poorly covered. Thus the description of the clinical features of epilepsy is sketchy and at times misleading. The same could be said about the coverage of spasticity and Alzheimer's disease. The experienced clinician can make allowance for this but since the book is primarily intended for undergraduates in pre-clinical studies and the biological sciences, future editions might seek to redress this imbalance.

One of the problems facing the author of introductory texts lies in achieving a balance between excessive simplification and undue complication and in this book the author has succeeded reasonably well. Overall I can recommend it as a good general introduction to a difficult and steadily changing subject. Its value would be enhanced by collaboration with a clinician and an expansion of the section devoted to defined diseases of the brain.

RA METCALFE

Reshaping the Psychoanalytic Domain. By JUDITH M HUGHES. (Pp 244; \$30.00.) University of California Press, 1989.

There have been many books written recently looking at Psychoanalysis and its Practitioners in great depth; as an American Professor of History Judith Hughes provides an outsiders view of the British School of Psychoanalysis in more ways than one. Her book is certainly one of the better ones. I recommend her book to those who are already interested and involved in the psychoanalytic field of work, but more particularly to those who remain sceptical and at