knowledge at the time. Techniques of testing are then described and the concepts illustrated by the findings in his subjects. In this format Poppelreuter treats perimetric findings (i.e. elementary functions); apperceptive processes (underlying depth perception, colour perception, form perception, visual search, and filling-in); the higher level interpretation of visual images; personality; specific accounts of reading disturbances and optic apraxia; and last but not least in Poppelreuter's estimation, techniques of retraining. The appeal of this book goes far beyond those interested in the history of this area of neurology and psychology. For those interested in higher visual function there is much of current relevance, and many of Poppelreuter's observations demand to be pursued and interpreted in the context of modern neuro-imaging and our understanding of the organisation of the primate visual system. Workers in clinical neuropsychology and rehabilitation alike will derive concepts of practical value from Poppelreuter's approach. Indeed, if this were a new work published today, it would be greeted as a significant and timely contribution.

GORDON PLANT

Cerebral Sinus Thrombosis. Experimental and Clinical Aspects. Edited by K EINHAUPL, O KEMPSKI AND A BAETHMANN. (pp 234; Price \$69.50.) New York, Plenum Publishing Corp., 1991. ISBN 0 306 43832 1.

The stated purpose of this international symposium report from Germany is to stimulate interest in the neglected field of cerebral sinus thrombosis and especially to alert clinicians to the diagnosis. The first section deals with pathology including experimental studies. The second section extends widely into mechanisms of brain damage including cerebral blood flow, smooth muscle reactivity and ischaemic cell damage, all of which are well written.

The clinical section is introduced by Henry Barnett with a historical review. There follows a very thorough account of the signs and symptoms which may be encountered together with the differential diagnosis. Despite the detailed account there remains the impression that the diagnosis is difficult; perhaps the most important message is the need to keep it in mind. The chapter on investigation comes down firmly in favour of angiography though indicating this is likely to be superseded by MRI which has the advantage of showing associated parenchymal changes. Stress is laid on the need for the angiography to be of high quality, four-vessel, with an extensive venous phase in two planes.

The chapter on treatment deals with the controversial question on whether to use heparin and reports a small placebo controlled trial which was stopped after 22 subjects because the heparin treated group were faring so much better. Unfortunately insufficient detail is given to enable one to judge the quality of the trial but clearly the authors favour the use of heparin and consider the risk of haemorrhage to be small. This book is a useful contribution to a neglected field.

JOHN MARSHALL

Uncommon Psychiatric Syndromes 3rd Edition. By DAVID ENOCH AND WM TRETHOWAN. (Pp 269; Price £19.95.) Oxford, Butterworth-Heinemann, 1991. ISBN 0 7506 1400 5.

This unusual and successful volume presents the history, clinical features and discusses the aetiology of eleven unusual "fascinomata". The syndromes include: Capgras, De Clérambault (*psychose passionnelle*, or pure erotomania), Ganser, Othello, Munchausen, and Tourette as well as Cotard (*le délire de negation*), Folie à deux, Ekblom (delusional parasitosis, not restless legs), Couvade, and Possession states.

It is intended as a scholarly review and indeed it is discursive in its coverage. But it is evident that sadly, there remains a gulf between psychiatry and neurology in attitudes and concepts of aetiology in the several syndromes which bridge both specialties. Well written, and always entertaining by virtue of the topics considered, it yet fails to penetrate adequately the recent genetic and neurochemical data available in, for example, Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome. We learn that hysteria is the basis of the Ganser state in pure form. Munchausen's syndrome is characterised by pathological lying, masochistic self-destruction, yet compulsory admission and detention are seen as essential, and there is a need for prolonged supportive psychotherapy. The concept of malingering is largely dismissed, and the important but difficult borderline between illness and deliberate manipulations and deceptions receives perfunctory attention.

Good reference lists are marred by numerous inaccuracies and by omission of titles and last pages. Despite these pccadilloes it is an instructive and entertaining read.

JMS PEARCE

Huntington's Disease Vol. 22. Major Problems in Neurology Series. Edited by PETER S HARPER. (Pp 438; Price £45.00.) 1991. Sidcup, WB Saunders. ISBN 0 7020 1538 5.

This is an excellent book. It is readable, comprehensive, practical, and has a consistency of style indicating careful editing. All aspects of Huntington's Chorea are considered starting with a fascinating historical review, then ranging through clinical features and management follows a series of excellent chapters on genetic aspects and, in particular, practical advice on genetic counselling.

This book is written in a simple informative style. There is great sensitivity shown in the discussion of practical management of patients and families with the disease. The chapters on genetic counselling and predictive testing are models of clarity and useful advice in one of the most difficult of clinical situations. Although the identification of the Huntington's Disease gene is probably near, if not imminent, this book will remain an invaluable source of information and references for the neurologist long after this definitive discovery has been made. Peter Harper is to be congratulated on bringing together a team which probably has a unique experience of this disease. And, in this book the team have given us the fruits of 20 years' clinical experience and research.

It is strongly recommended for neurologists and clinical geneticists in training or in practice; and it should be available for reference in most medical libraries.

RB GODWIN-AUSTEN

Awareness of Deficit after Brain Injury: Clinical and Theoretical Issues. By G P PRIGATANO AND D L SCHACTER. (Pp 271; Price £45.00.) 1991. New York, Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-505941-7.

How can the patient who leaves all the food on the left of the plate have *neglect* when, from his perspective, there is no left side to neglect? How can someone with amnesia know they have a bad memory? This interesting book reviews the evidence relating to these and similar questions. It brings together discussion of a wide range of topics which cannot easily be found in more traditional neurology or psychology texts.

This edited, multi-author book covers an area of neurology that has received little attention (indeed, has been *neglected*). It does not restrict itself solely to unilateral neglect but covers many deficits such as memory loss and aphasia. The chapters include a stimulating mixture of both experimental findings and development of the theoretical framework of awareness. Lastly the book does not ignore the psychological (emotional) causes of unawareness of deficit or the more philosophical aspects of self-awareness.

Any neurologist who is closely involved in the continuing management of patients who have suffered a stroke or head injury should read this book. It will stimulate thought about the experience of our patients and will thereby help us understand their bizarre experiences.

DERICK T WADE

Radiation Injury to the Nervous System. Edited by P H GUTIN, S A LEIBEL AND G E SHELIN. (Pp 482; Price \$162.50.) New York, Raven Press. 1991. ISBN 0-88167-760-4.

The first edition of this book (*Radiation Damage to the Nervous System*, 1980) was a seminal reference work throughout the 1980's and upon opening this new volume it surprised me that there was no reference to the previous edition. This current work is longer (482 pages) and has a broader appeal. The first 90 pages represent a synopsis of modern radiobiological thinking and serve as a good introduction to the following chapters reviewing the brain radiation tolerance data from small and large animal work. I was pleased to see the problems of retreatment data and volume effect data (two particularly problematic areas) tackled in these reviews. The next section details clinical and human data with chapters on pathology, diagnostic imaging of radiation injury and management of radiation necrosis.

I was very pleased indeed to find whole chapters devoted to the radiation tolerance of optic and hypothalmo-pituitary pathways—particularly important areas, and so much better understood than ten years ago.