surgeon, and in addition to the more mature neurosurgeon who will have less difficulty in interpreting the illustrations.

P KIRKPATRICK

The Human Brain: in photographs and diagrams. By J NOLTE and J B ANGEVINE. (Pp 192; Price: £31.00.) 1995. Mosby, St Louis, MO. ISBN 0-8016-8125-1.

I was once asked, whilst a research registrar, to teach some MRCPsych candidates neuroanatomy. This task I would liken to trying to enthuse a band of Mongolian trainee cattle herdsman to learn the A to Z of London by heart. Having to learn maps of places one might never visit is a task that challenges anyone's enthusiasm for topography. However, trainee London taxi-drivers, by constantly visiting places aided by their "A to Z", quickly become familiar with the anatomy of London in order to pass their viva. In the same way many trainee neurologists realise how much nervous system anatomy they need to know some time after they have failed to learn it for the first time as students. So for anyone (MRCPsych candidates included) needing a useful Michelin map guide to the brain for their travels in the neurosciences . . . this is it, right down to a Michelin-style ring binding (as useful here as in the road maps in the car on holiday).

Here is a striking example of how to ease what the preface calls the "daunting task" of learning about the functional anatomy of the brain. The illustrations are a superb mixture of photographs (digitally retouched) of stained whole brain sections in many planes and quite beautiful diagrams and annotated photographs illustrating neuronal circuitry including the main neurotransmitter systems (the latter diagrams are not very widely available elsewhere). Therefore, although aimed at medical students, this book should be bought by neurological trainees (and/or their librarians) since it will prove invaluable. Anatomy teachers should hope that in the future for their students they can get access (on the Internet or on CD-ROM) to the Washington School of Medicine's computerised brain reconstruction images used in this book.

The main features of the brains' topography are demonstrated by successive computerised reconstructions starting with the brainstem-mesencephalon-diencephalon stalk upon which successive structures (ventricles, hippocampus, basal ganglia, etc), in different colours are superimposed. Later chapters then use the same reconstruction images to demonstrate the different planes from which sections are taken. Below each clean stained brain section labelling is provided on "ghosted" images of that section. At the end are well produced CT, MRI and angiogram photographs all clearly illustrating relevant anatomical watering holes. The venous anatomy is shown on venous-phase angiograms labelled even with the direction of blood flow!

If you need to know the anatomy of the brain, either to pass an exam, diagnose a patient's problem, or teach neuroanatomy, you will not regret the hole in your budget this book will make.

CHRIS ALLEN

Advances in Radiosurgery. Edited by C LINDQUIST, D KONDZIOLKA, and J S LOEFFLER. (Pp 124; Price: DM 150). Published by Springer Verlag, New York 1994.

This book is composed of a selection of papers from the proceedings of the 1st Congress of the International Stereotactic Radiosurgery Society, held in Stockholm in June 1993. A wide range of topics is covered but most papers give only the results of small series and an appraisal of current indications rather than any recent advances in radiosurgery as the cover title of the book might lead one to expect. However, of the less established indications, sufficient benefit has been shown for radiosurgery in the management of low grade glioma, the squamous cell type of craniopharyngioma, low flow corticocavernous fistulae, and some cases of focal epilepsy to justify its continued exploration in larger series.

In the long run this newly formed Society plans to meet every two years, so the published proceedings should continue to provide a useful update on the range and efficacy of stereotactic radiosurgery, which is still a relatively new technique.

DAVID FORSTER

Clinician's Guide to Neuropsychological Assessment. Edited by RODNEY D VANDERPLOEG. (Pp 307; Price £53.95). Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Hove 1994. ISBN 0-8058-1253-9.

Any neurologist, psychiatrist or even neurosurgeon buying this book will, I'm afraid, be sadly disappointed: the term "clinician" in the title applies to practising neuropsychologists, but even among the latter group, it is hard to think who would enjoy this rather turgid book. Instead of making accessible a fascinating and vibrant subject, it lives up to the warning issued in the first sentence of the introduction "neuropsychological assessment is a difficult and complicated process". This need not, I think, be the case.

Most of the book revolves around methodological issues of patient assessment. For instance, whether to use a set and standard test battery on their flexible approach; the problem of assessing pre morbid intelligence; the difficulty of assessing cognition in individuals of highly variable backgrounds.

The dominant trend in European neuropsychology, that is to say the application of cognitive models, derived from normal experimental psychology, to patterns of deficit in brain-injured subjects, is almost entirely neglected. Any naive reader of this book would be forgiven for total ignorance of the area which has undoubtedly revolutionised our understanding of human cognition and of brain structure-functional relationships.

JOHN R HODGES

Principles of Neurosurgery. Edited by SETTI S RENGACHARY and ROBERT H WILKINS. (£150.00). Published by Wolfe, London 1994. ISBN 1-56375-022-8.

This book, edited by the authors of the best known and most definitive neurosurgical textbook, sets out to provide a comprehensive but not encyclopaedic overview of clinical neurosurgery. The book achieves its aim in 51 chapters and inevitably, in a multi-author text, some are better than others. In the preface the authors offer the reader "extraordinary visual appeal" and I was indeed impressed by the illustrations. There are many excellent radiological images, photographs, drawings, tables and algorithms. The layout is attractive and invites the reader to dip in. The introductory chapter, which covers the historical development of neurological surgery, sets the tone and is beautifully illustrated.

There is a good mix of basic science and clinical material, so necessary for the successful practice of this discipline. Important allied areas are also covered with good chapters on the assessment of pituitary function, radiotherapy and chemotherapy of the CNS. The text is easy to follow, well structured and subdivided logically. Referencing is full but inevitably, in a textbook of this size, somewhat dated.

The authors have set out to provide an introduction to neurosurgery for medical students and junior house officers. I do not think the book will find much of a market on this side of the Atlantic in these groups. However, as an introductory text for those entering higher surgical training in neurosurgery this book is likely to be popular. I would certainly recommend all departmental libraries to buy a copy for their trainees but individuals may find £150 too high a price to pay. Those studying for the inter-collegiate fellowship will find that the text falls short on detail and also in the appreciation of some of the more controversial aspects of practice.

RODNEY LAING

Handbook of Tremor Disorders. Edited by LESLIE J FINDLEY and WILLIAM C KOLLER. (Pp 608; Price: \$195.00). Published by Marcel Dekker, New York. ISBN 0-8247-8859-1.

Within the ethereal circle of movement disorders there exists a group of specialists who devote much of their time to research into tremor. These individuals, with the help of The International Tremor Foundation in Chicago, have organised a series of excellent symposia and workshops over the years and have significantly advanced both knowledge and awareness of the variety and complexity of neurological conditions in which tremor is a major clinical feature. Both the editors of this book have a major interest in the investigation and treatment of tremor, and as a result of their international contacts have been able to marshal a formidable team of contributors.

David Brooks reviews the recent findings from functional imaging, which have shown global overactivity of the cerebellum in the tremor of Parkinson's syndrome, essential tremor and neuropathic tremor, and in addition the fascinating finding that patients with an isolated rest tremor invariably have nigral dysfunction. It will be crucial to see if these cases remain as a discrete benign tremulous form of Parkinson's disease or go

on to develop full blown Parkinson's disease with rigidity and bradykinesia in the next few years. For those interested in the mechanisms of tremor, there are the customary authoritative reviews by Llinas, De Long, Lamarre, Rothwell and Deuschl, but uncertainty remains with respect to the relative importance of central autonomous generators and instability of peripheral reflex loops.

Well written chapters are also included on primary orthostatic tremor and its relationship to essential tremor, writing tremor, neuropathic tremor, midbrain tremor and the increasingly acknowledged psychogenic tremors. Complex interrelationship between dystonia and postural tremor is also covered in depth.

This cornucopia will be coveted and dipped into by those neurologists with a special interest in abnormal movement disorders, but who would not consider themselves to have a research interest in tremor. However, for the majority of clinicians involved in the hurly burly of clinical practice, I suspect that regrettably time and cost factors will conspire together to keep this excellent book out of reach.

ANDREW LEES

Contributions to Neuropsychological Assessment. A Clinical Manual. Edited by ARTHUR L BENTON, ABIGAIL B SIVAN, KERRY DES HAMSHER, NILS R VARNEY AND OTFRIED SPREEN. (Pp 159; £22.50.) Published by Oxford University Press, Oxford. 1994. ISBN 0-19-509179-5.

Neuropsychology is increasingly recognised as a robust investigative tool for neurological and psychiatric disorders. Many well established tests were developed by Benton, and this book is an updated manual for administering, scoring and interpreting the results of these tests. The main improvements in this second edition concern the results of research using these tests, and the wealth of normative data now available, including children and the elderly.

It should be noted that this is not an introduction to neuropsychological tests in general, but only pertains to Benton's tests. Consequently the aspects of cognition covered correspond to Benton's interests. There is a brief section on tests of orientation and learning, which merely covers temporal and left-right orientation and serial digit learning.

The bulk of the text refers to perceptual tests. Tests of facial recognition, line orientation, visual form discrimination, pantomime recognition, tactile form perception, finger localisation and phoneme discrimina-

tion are considered. Motor function is addressed by means of tests of three-dimensional block construction and motor impersistence.

This book will be of use to the clinical neuropsychologist who uses these tests frequently in clinical assessment. It will also be of use to those planning to use these tests in research. It represents a useful summary regarding the administration of Benton's tests, and the results of recent research using the battery.

JOHN GREENE

Intracerebral Haemorrhage. Edited by E FELDMANN. (Pp 348; Price: \$65.) 1994. Futura Publishing Co. Inc., Armonk NY. ISBN 0-87993-575-8.

As a minority cause of acute stroke, spontaneous intracerebral haemorrhage (SICH) now usually receives a lot less attention than cerebral infarction. This is in contrast to its place in history as the cause of "apoplexy". Early pathological explorers more easily noticed a red blood clot in the brain than the more subtle ramollissement caused by infarction. In this book intracerebral haemorrhage is defined as bleeding from an arterial source. In such a haemorrhage the consequent brain damage is a species of head trauma rather than the more evolving process of infarction, which at least holds out hope for pharmacological salvage. This means that the therapeutics involved in the treatment of primarily haemorrhagic stroke are surgical if anything. This is borne out by the brevity of the chapter here on medical therapy (seven pages, a mere 54 references) compared to that on surgical therapy (19 pages, 134 references).

In the absence of a challenging pathophysiology after SICH most of the interest that can be generated in intracerebral haemorrhage relates to the pathology of the diseases which cause it. In this book these causes, such as hypertensive microaneurysms, are mostly covered in a worthy though rather dull fashion. There are some unnecessary fillers such as the chapter on "Intracerebral haemorrhage caused by neoplasms", whilst the one on cerebral amyloid angiopathy is disappointingly brief, about the same size of an over-indulgent chapter entitled "Ethanol" (curiously separate from the chapter on "Recreational Drug Abuse"). This chapter, which starts by informing me that "Ethyl alcohol is a clear, colourless, hydroxylated aliphatic hydrocarbon . . .", has little of relevance to intracerebral haemorrhage after one has noted

(in the first chapter on epidemiology) that high alcohol consumption is associated with an increased risk of SICH and we don't know why.

There are some useful chapters here including the one on vascular malformations and aneurysms. Appropriately this is mainly about malformations, with aneurysms here only briefly reviewed as a cause of intracerebral haemorrhage. The clinical syndromes of SICH are reviewed with helpful tables, although some diagrams would have been even more valuable. Thrombolysis and SICH is exhaustively reviewed in a chapter with 366 references. In this chapter especially the over-enthusiastic and under-selective use of the author's reference database makes some lines difficult to read due to the paucity of text words compared with reference numbers. For example "therapy with SK^{102,111,113,116,134}, UK^{4,5,99,102,106,107,111,113-116,120,124,127,133,134,142} rt-PA^{109,110,112,115,117,124,128-132,139,146,147,149,152} prourokinase . . ."

Although most of the appropriate (and some other) ground is covered, there is not a lot to enthuse about in this book. The authors do not make it easy for the information overloaded reader and the format is rather old fashioned with a paucity of illustrations other than scan images. However, if you want a book mainly as a source of references (rather than reference) on SICH this one is probably for you, although rather expensive as such.

CHRIS ALLEN

Atlas of Adult Electroencephalography. By WARREN T BLUME and MASAKO KAIBARA. (Pp 585; \$125.00). Published by Raven Press, New York 1994. ISBN 0-7817-0162-7.

The aim of this Atlas is to bridge the gap between EEG text books and clinical practice. To do this, the authors have presented examples of normal and abnormal EEGs, demonstrating how the EEG can vary in given clinical situations.

Over 500 excerpts from different EEGs are presented, covering normal, epileptiform and non-epileptiform phenomena and coma. In addition to the figure legends, the contents listings are annotated, acting as a useful summary of important points. Common EEG artefacts are also well illustrated. The result is a comprehensive reference manual covering a broad range of adult clinical electroencephalography which complements its companion volume, *Current practice of electroencephalography*, edited by D D Daly and T A Pedley.

SIMON BONIFACE