

desire to suggest direction for future investigation and a chapter should have been reserved for this purpose.

To the connoisseur the meal was perhaps disappointing. However several of the dishes are to be recommended, especially the first course. The book aimed to provide a clear direction for future study which I feel it unfortunately failed to achieve.

ANGUS KENNEDY

Surgery for Epilepsy. Contemporary Issues in Neurological Surgery. Edited by SUSAN S SPENCER AND DENNIS D SPENCER. (Pp 201 Illustrated; Price £39.50.) Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1990. ISBN 0 86542 089 0.

This brief book, less than 200 pages, has been written by a distinguished group of North American contributors in response to the renewed interest in the surgical treatment of epilepsy. The first section covers preoperative selection, the use of intracranial electrodes and special considerations in children. The second section covers specific operative treatments and the third section is a single chapter describing the outcome of treatment including aspects other than seizure control.

This attempt to provide a simple and comprehensive guide to the surgical treatment of epilepsy deserves considerable sympathy. The standard of the contributions is high. Often topics are discussed in detail, for example intracranial recording, but with the omission of techniques which are not used locally. The section on temporal lobe surgery describes two or three methods in detail, omitting others of importance and giving no guidance as to how they should be used. Only one method of hemispherectomy is described in detail, and the only application of functional surgery described is callosotomy. The contributions of modern brain imaging and the place of neuropathology are hardly mentioned.

However, within this narrow parochial view, topics are discussed in detail and one has the impression of attending a series of honest, interested but restricted local seminars. This book would fail to impress those with some knowledge of epilepsy surgery and may mislead the uninformed.

CE POLKEY

Pediatric Neurology: Behavior and Cognition of the Child with Brain Dysfunction. Series: Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine. Edited by N AMIR, I RAPIN AND D BRANSKI. (Pp 186; Price: SFr 174; DM 208; UK £75.70; US\$ 139.25). Basel: Karger, 1991. ISBN 3 8055 5223 8.

A distinguished group of child neurologists, psychiatrists, psychologists and educationalists contribute to the aims of creating a meeting ground and of facilitating communication between specialists whose primary interests in disturbances of higher brain functions are diverse. Some of the authors cross the artificial boundaries between the various disciplines more successfully than others.

A multidisciplinary approach is attained well in the chapters on innate specialisation

for emotion, assessment of psychiatric status in the child with cerebral palsy, preschool children with inadequate language acquisition, developmental dyslexia and developmental dyscalculia. The contributions on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, tics and the Tourette syndrome, the role of augmentative communication in impaired language acquisition and neuro-psychological assessment of children with developmental disabilities are informative and well-written; so that, even though fewer references to related subspecialties are cited, they contain much interesting and useful material.

Since epileptic seizures, particularly brief and non-convulsive attacks, are recognised as potentially important features in deviant higher brain functions, it is disappointing that a chapter on this subject was not included. Otherwise, the diversity of the material covered and the high standard of virtually all of the text commend it to those, whatever their special interests, who work with children with cerebral dysfunction.

SHEILA J WALLACE

Patient Care in Neurosurgery. Third edition. By NM OYESIKU and AL AMACHER. (Pp 317; Price: US\$ 37.50). Boston, Mass: Little, Brown & Co. 1990. ISBN 0 316 03640 0.

In this book of just over 300 pages one third covers clinical and neurosurgical physiology and two thirds clinical neurosurgery. It is one of a series entitled Patient Care, written for the American resident in training for neurosurgery. The physiology section contains a limited amount of anatomy, and sections on cerebral blood-flow, intracranial pressure and what is nicely termed "brain water" which are concisely and well presented, are based upon the classical papers in these subjects, with good appended references, and fine simple line diagrams. Furthermore there are good details of the practical procedures in patient monitoring and lists of the necessary equipment.

The clinical neurosurgery section is a synopsis of the main conditions accompanied by practical plans for pre-operative assessment and intra-operative and post-operative management, with good references. One can easily find here basic information such as the Glasgow Coma Scale, the WFNS classification for patients with subarachnoid haemorrhage, clearly listed and referenced. The section concerned with neuroradiology does not include adequate information about MRI and CT scanning in the neurosurgery of today and would benefit from the addition of more detail on techniques, and the basic interpretation of the scans, with a few simple line diagrams as in other parts of the book. A similar criticism could be made of the information on neuropathology but it would be difficult to widen the scope of this book without either increasing the number of pages, or changing from a mildly quaint but readable style to a note form with many more tabulations. Were such changes to be accompanied by a reduction of an inch or so in size this would be the ideal *vade mecum* for the resident in neurosurgery. In its present form it is strongly recommended as a good starting text for the first year registrar in neurosurgery which should be easily available on the ward, although a little large for the coat pocket.

GORDON BROCKLEHURST

Epilepsy: Current Approaches to Diagnosis and Treatment. Edited by DB SMITH. (Pp 276; Price: US\$ 106.50). New York: Raven Press, 1990. ISBN 0 88167 615 2.

The preface to this book begins "Another book on epilepsy?" One certainly has to agree that there have been a profusion of books on epilepsy produced over the last ten or fifteen years and another one probably needs a very clear vision of something new to justify its production.

The book has no aim to be comprehensive. Individual chapters focus on growing points in the field of epilepsy and more controversial management issues. Most chapters are short, to the point and concisely written. Some of the better chapters include discussion of the classification of seizures and epilepsies and their implications, the use of EEG and EEG monitoring, drug selection and the relationship between epilepsy and aggression. The final part of the book is taken up by two appendices which in turn discuss the requirements for clear guidelines for standards of care in epilepsy and some subsequent recommended guidelines for diagnosis and treatment that have been drawn up by the National Association of Epilepsy Centres in the United States. These are of interest and value in view of the developing debate about quality of care and quality of life in epilepsy.

The style of writing is gratifyingly to the point but the book is sparsely illustrated, and those illustrations that are produced are of very poor quality and appear to have been produced by a dot matrix printer. The book should be of interest to those who have a preliminary understanding of epilepsy and its practical management but who wish to explore the more controversial areas in a little more detail. Whether the approach justifies another book on epilepsy can still be questioned.

DAVID CHADWICK

Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain and Spine. Edited by SCOTT W ATLAS. (Pp 1137, illustrated; Price: \$198.00). New York: Raven Press, 1990. ISBN 0 88167 694 2.

This is a refreshingly good book. There are many authors but the editor has achieved a uniform style of presentation and ensured that each chapter is interesting, informative and relevant to current publications. As well as the obligatory account of MR physics there are chapters describing blood flow techniques and MR angiography and also spectroscopy. Although these chapters are brief they point to an expanding role for MR.

There are useful chapters on the biological effects and on safety. Artefacts in imaging of the central nervous system are well illustrated. The chapters follow the usual sequence from developmental lesions through tumours, infections, degenerative conditions, head injury etc., and also consider specific sites eg. pituitary, orbits and spine. The text in general avoids the trap of a repetitive comparison of CT and MR appearances. Each chapter describes details of the MR sequences which provide optimum images and describes the interpretation of these. Other techniques such as angiography