since most psychiatrists have little difficulty in reconciling the need to use physical treatments with psychological treatments. It may be intellectually inconsistent, but it works. Healy occasionally misses the windmill altogether, since his argument concerning the nature of psychosis is based on the premise that psychotics are capable of normal reasoning about abnormal experiences, or that they reason no more abnormally than the rest of us. His arguments about psychosis, drawing on the unreported work of Mahler, have been shown to be incorrect, since psychotic patients do not think or reason as we do. Similarly, his claim that neuroleptics are effective merely to induce a change is surprising—since if that were the case, benzodiazepines would be even more effective antipsychotic agents. Many of Healy's broad sweeps are weakened by similar errors of detail. First rank symptoms are not established as frontal lobe phenomena; the Kandinsky of pseudo hallucinations was Viktor the psychiatrist, not Vasily the painter; paranoia has never been shown to be unresponsive to neuroleptics (no sound trials of anything have been done); schizophrenia secondary to organic causes is not immediately distinguishable from the so-called "functional" state; when was it shown that chronic psychotics are deluded only when talking to hospital staff? The history of psychiatry is indeed replete with examples of psychological reasoning about disease which turn out to be fallacious. Psychiatrists should be the professionals most interested in the patient's own descriptions of feeling, experiences and motives, and yet so often we are trussed to be cleverer than them, and so end up looking foolish.

Psychiatry needs writers like Healy, to puncture pretension and bombast. However, in asking us to be neither mindless nor brainless, Healy is articulating a message that should be heeded not only by psychiatrists, but by the entire medical profession.

SIMON WESSELEY


The stated purpose of this book is to provide a general reference for all those concerned in the management of patients with hydrocephalus—neurological specialists, medical para-professionals and the family members of afflicted individuals.

The contents by nine individual contributors are in two parts. The first provides some scientific background to the hydrocephalic state. Four chapters cover the normal development and anatomy of the cerebrospinal fluid pathways, and the basic pathology of hydrocephalus. Another presents a classification based on causation and contains illustrations of the various pathological processes. There is also a brief account of the various experimental animal models used to study hydrocephalus. The second part deals with clinical presentation and evaluation, and methods of treatment, both medical and surgical. The special problem of myelodysplasia with hydrocephalus is explained at length with particular emphasis on social and ethical problems. Finally there is an extended review of the psychosocial problems of hydrocephalus, as they confront carers, parents and patient. An appendix contains a list of US National organisations which may provide help for families caring for the hydrocephalic patient.

The text is clear and in general well supported by the illustrations, though the deliberate decision to include some "that may seem dated, difficult to interpret," is not easy to understand. References are adequate and provide a basis for further reading. The appendix is relevant to the North American Continent.

Who should read this book? The Editor suggests that it is appropriate for paediatricians, neurologists and neurosurgeons, and certainly if they are in the early stages of their training this may be correct. Though it is not a surgical text the neurosurgical trainee would learn that there is more to the management of hydrocephalus than the insertion of an appropriate shunt system. The paediatric trainee would probably benefit most. For mature practitioners, however, the text contains little that is original. Whether, as suggested by the Editors, nurses, medical students and family members of affected patients will find material of use must remain uncertain.

JJ MACCABE


During the 10 years that have elapsed since the first edition of this book was published much new knowledge and understanding has accrued regarding the nervous control of micturition. This book represents an attempt to assimilate this new knowledge. As with the title, the main thrust of the book is concerned with the physical factors that determine storage and passage of urine, as assessed clinically, and by micturating cystography, coupled with EMG assessment of the contraction and relaxation phases of the muscles of the pelvic floor. Clearly, studies along these lines imply a knowledge of the anatomy and physiology, and of the disorders of function that lead to abnormalities in bladder storage of urine and in micturition and it is this aspect of this subject that is addressed by the title "Neuro-Urology." The neurological reader will find curious parallels in practice. For example, the first two sections of the book, concerned with basic sciences and clinical investigation, contain much which is of a strictly neurological nature. Thus, an account of neurotransmitters associated with the autonomic control of bladder function, and discussion of electromyography of the pelvic floor muscles, and evoked potential studies from the bladder, the third section in the book (Chapters 19-25) is concerned with "Neurogenic vesico urethral dysfunction" a term that includes lesions of the spinal cord, cauda equina, pelvic plexus and other neurological disorders such as brain tumours, multiple sclerosis, and neuropathies. Much of the rest of the book is