

AIDS, HIV and Mental Health (Psychiatry and Medicine Series). By MICHAEL B KING. 1993. (Pp 197; Price: £14.95, \$19.95). Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-42356-5.

This is a useful monograph which addresses the problems of mental health in AIDS and HIV infected patients and the response from healthcare workers. The author has reviewed much of the literature on this topic and, in many instances, finds it lacking in both quantity and quality. However, despite this problem, he is able to give a critical and concise approach to the diagnosis and management of psychiatric problems. This is placed in the social context HIV provokes and explains the stigma that patients suffer and the sometimes ill-considered reaction of both public and medical profession.

Much is not known but clearly there is a large psychiatric morbidity accompanying this infection. Dr King debates the question of whether depression and anxiety affects the immune system in an adverse way. This remains unproven, the one unsatisfactory trial of psychotherapy did not improve the patients' outlook. Psychosis is a worrying complication and often presages progressive organic encephalopathy with ensuing dementia. In the introduction the neurological complications of HIV infection are considered, but this is necessarily brief and neurologists should not look to this book for guidance on management of organic encephalopathies or other neurological problems.

I would though strongly recommend this book to psychiatrists involved in caring for HIV sufferers and to other clinicians, counsellors, nurses and carers.

C CLOUGH

Inflammatory Myopathies (Bailliere's Clinical Neurology International Practice and Research) Vol.2, No.3. Guest Editor: F L MASTAGLIA. (Pp 744; Price: £27.50). 1993. Sidcup, Harcourt Brace and Co Ltd. ISBN 0-7020-1706-X.

This book begins with a helpful chapter on the classification and clinical features of inflammatory muscle disease including some comments on differential diagnosis. Following this are good sections on the pathological changes in different inflammatory myopathies and on inclusion body myositis. These are followed by a fragmented and confusing chapter on the immunogenetics of inflammatory muscle disease and an almost equally impenetrable one on the rôle of autoantibodies in myositis. I am afraid that I didn't find myself with any greater understanding of the relationship between these components of the immune system and inflammatory myopathies at the end of these chapters than I had had when I started them. In contrast, the chapter by Hohlfeldt, Goebels and AG Engel on cellular immune mechanisms in inflammatory myopathies is very clear and contains an excellent review of our current knowledge of this area.

The remainder of the book contains good chapters on viral infection, including retroviruses, and inflammatory myopathies,

experimental models of inflammatory myopathies and treatment. This is a useful book in which Professor Mastaglia has assembled a multinational group of authors who, collectively, are at the forefront of our knowledge of the inflammatory myopathies. In common with many multi-author texts there is a little overlap between some chapters but overall it provides an up to date review of most aspects of our understanding of these diseases and would be a useful addition to any departmental library.

TJ WALLS

Psychology, Pain and Anaesthesia. Editor: H B GIBSON. (Pp 314; £17.99). 1994. Publisher: Chapman and Hall London. ISBN 0-412-33650-2.

This book is fascinating both in concept and in content. Edited by a psychologist, the book is aimed at providing a comprehensive account of up to date practice in the management of acute and chronic pain, the prevention of pain associated with medical procedures and the rehabilitation of pain patients. In the space available, this would be an impossible task but something of value has definitely been achieved.

In the 314 pages there are contained twelve chapters. Six deal with the treatment of chronic pain, three with the assessment and treatment of acute pain and psychological factors involved in recovery from surgery, and three with specific aspects of general anaesthesia. These are not written for the specialist but for those who wish to obtain a comprehensive picture of certain facets of a large area of clinical practice that is becoming increasingly complex.

The chapters on chronic pain cover the topic well, albeit somewhat superficially, but several of them explore corners that are rarely exposed elsewhere and this is where this book really comes into its own. The same is true for the other chapters on acute pain and general anaesthesia. Those dealing with psychological factors in surgical recovery by Salmon and anaesthesia for ECT by Simpson and Oswald could easily stand as archetypal monographs illustrating how to present comprehensive, factual information in a readable and assimilable manner.

For all clinical practitioners with an interest in these areas, researchers, lecturers and their students, this is a book to be perused, dipped into and read, learned and inwardly digested. Obviously a must for all libraries and departments as there is much of value in this small, well presented and attractively priced tome.

KEITH BUDD

Handbook of Clinical Neurology, Systemic Diseases/Part 1. Editors: P J VINKEN, G W BRUYN and H L KLAUWANS. Co-Editors: C G GOETZ, C M TANNER and M J AMINOFF. (Pp 669; US\$ 237.25; Dfl 415.00). Elsevier Science Publishers. 1993, Amsterdam. ISBN 0-444-81282-2.

The famous "Handbook" reminds me of a medieval cathedral, taking centuries to be built, beautiful to look at but rather under used. The high price combined with built in

obsolescence mean that only very well off neurologists and libraries will harbour ambitions to collect the whole series. Systemic diseases were last given the handbook treatment in two volumes in 1979-80. Therefore the three volumes planned for the 1990s are expected a shelf life of ten years or so, quite a tall order. An intrinsic failure to cope with the evanescent nature of medical knowledge is the fundamental flaw of the handbook as a publishing concept. It belongs more to the days when neurology was a species of Byzantine art than now. However of all the volumes of the handbook, those dealing with the neurological manifestations of systemic diseases are most likely to be useful since such reviews are less commonly found elsewhere.

This volume covers cardiovascular, haematologic, respiratory and renal diseases and so contains much of interest to neurologists with a large general medical interface. There is some repetition, for example Libman Sachs endocarditis is reviewed both as a heart valve disorder (Chapter 2) and in the chapter on Endocarditis (Chapter 6) but overall this endemic fault of multi-author texts is not apparent. Especially helpful are the reviews of neurologic complications of cardiac arrest and cardiac operations. In addition more exotic topics like the toxic oil syndrome (under Eosinophilic syndromes) are conscientiously described as well as subjects of growing interest such as the neurology of plasma cell dyscrasias and the paraproteinaemias. The respiratory disease section has perhaps more than most neurologists would need on the hyperventilation syndrome but does give extensive reviews of the neurology of respiration as well covering the central apnoea syndromes. Other chapters cover the new neurology of renal dialysis and transplantation including favourites such as central pontine myelinosis in over rapidly corrected hyponatraemia.

The editors and authors of this latest addition to the brown ranks of the handbooks' legion of volumes are to be commended in completing a solid piece of work. However I wonder how much of a future there is in such a canonical project when the half life of medical knowledge is declining far faster than the cycle time of updating volumes.

CMC ALLEN

CORRECTION

Penfield's homunculus.

J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 1993;57:525.
The author of this article should be Paul Crichton with apologies to the author.