difficulties underlying the pathogenesis of subacute sclerosing panencephalitis. The third section is devoted to papers and comments related to multiple sclerosis, and there is good and succinct discussion on the problems of pathogenesis and epidemiology. The final section consists of critical papers on the approach to slow virus infection including the views of virologists, geneticists, and epidemiologists, and ends with Dr Mim's excellent outlook on future research.

This is a good book and highly recommended. Each chapter is short and to the point, with full references. Each section includes thoughtful and interesting comments and discussion. The editors have done an excellent job and the publishers are to be complimented on the layout and standard of print and pictures.

L. S. ILLIS

An Atlas of Polytope Pneumography
By Taher El Gammal and Marshall B. Allen. (Pp. 386; illustrated; price not stated.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1977.

The Atlas describes in detail the improvement which can be obtained at air ventriculography and myelography in infants and pneumoencephalography in infants and adults by using a polytope. The authors have concentrated on the posterior fossa, third ventricle, and perisellar regions, areas in which computerised tomography has been less efficient. Examples of the normal pneumographic appearances and variants are shown, followed by the various pathological conditions which may be demonstrated.

Ventriculography and even encephalography can now be performed with water-soluble contrast media, and computerised tomography of the basal cisterns and suprasellar region is being done with intrathecal contrast enhancement. Such examinations cause less discomfort and result in less radiation to the patient than polytope pneumography and will be preferred in many centres.

This is a carefully prepared work. It is well-presented, and the illustrations are of good quality and well-labelled. The book will be of value for the anatomical demonstrations even for those moving on to the newer methods of investigation.

P. MACPHERSON

Neuro-otological Examination By Takuya Uemura, Jun-Ichi Suzuki, Jiro Hozawa, and Stephen M. Highstein. (Pp. 175; illustrated; £28.25.) University Park Press: Baltimore and London, Igaku Shoin Limited: Tokyo. 1977. In this Paper Age it must happen rarely that a new book does not have to jostle for elbow room in an overcrowded market. Significant gaps are rare in the medical bibliography, and it is to the credit of Professor Uemura and his colleagues from Tokyo and New York that they have identified and rectified a deficiency.

Obviously it is in rapidly developing young subspecialties, such as neurotology, that such gaps do exist. Unfortunately, for the same reason new books tend to suffer inevitably from "publication lag", rendering many out of date at, or soon after, publication. Thus, some of the more important deficiencies in this book, which could well have been subtitled *A Handbook of Practical Neuro-otology* are, for example, the use of electrodiagnostic tests such as objective audiometry, tympanometry, stapedius reflex measurements. Regrettably, too, the place of computer tomography in diagnosis has been omitted.

These omissions must detract from the otherwise considerable merits of this book, which packs into its modest 175 pages a lot of good sound clinical guidance in general and vestibular neurology. Especially good is the chapter on equilibrium function tests, including the evaluation of nystagmus.

At a rather pricey £28, however, it is unlikely to be found on the bookshelf of the average general neurologist or ENT surgeon.

NEIL T. BRATTEN

Science and Epilepsy—Neuroscience Gains in Epilepsy Research By James L. O'Leary and Sidney Goldring. (Pp. 302; illustrated; \$22.00.) Raven Press: New York. 1976.

My first reactions to this book were unfavourable. Random sampling indicated too little "science" for the advanced worker, and too little clinical and, especially, therapeutic information for the clinical neurologist. But the chapters are just the right length for reading in the train, and I soon found it compelling reading. Of course I should have known it all, but I didn't. The

book has obviously been written for the American "neuroscience" market. It successfully provides enough historical and other background information to orient a newcomer and to refer him to appropriate sources. The anatomical and physiological sections adroitly draw attention to the most significant aspects of these subjects in so far as they are relevant to epilepsy. Indeed, as I read them my respect for this book grew. It would be a useful introduction for house staff or for clinical neurophysiologists. It is sad that there are so few "neuroscientists" of the American type in this country. It is to be hoped that we have not fallen too far behind when the National Health Service gets around to upgrading medical science instead of administration and doctor's salaries.

J. A. SIMPSON

Depression and Schizophrenia. A Contribution on their Chemical Pathologies By H. M. van Praag. (Pp. 260; illustrated; £15.00.) Spectrum Publications: New York. 1977.

Despite the considerable interest in monoamine hypotheses of mental illness during the past decade, there has been no single volume which reviews the complex area. The present monograph fills this important gap and is devoted almost entirely to monoamine hypotheses in depression and schizophrenia. There can be few other authors with such an excellent understanding of the field who could have produced such a lucid and authoritative description of the present state of the art.

The idea that some deficiency in the cerebral monoamines noradrenaline and/or 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) might be involved in depression and other affective disorders stems largely from our understanding of the mode of action of antidepressant drugs, all of which appear to increase the availability of both noradrenaline and 5-HT at synapses in the brain. Obtaining direct evidence for such a hypothesis, however, from patients with affective disorders has proved very difficult. The author points out the limitations of all the available experimental approaches—the difficulty of assessing CNS monoamine mechanisms from measurements of peripheral body fluids or urine, the ambiguities which can arise from single measurements of the concentrations of