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 Polytome 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 polytome. 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 polytome 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

amine metabolites in cerebrospinal fluid, and the paucity of results from well-controlled studies of postmortem brain tissue. The "probenicid" technique, in which the rate of accumulation of amine metabolites is measured in serial samples of cerebrospinal fluid after administration of probenicid, was regarded as the final solution to the problem of direct assessment of the rate of utilisation of monoamines in the human brain—but even this method has failed to show convincingly that a deficiency in cerebral monoamine metabolism exists in depression.

In schizophrenia, as in depression, the postulated link with cerebral monoamine metabolism is suggested, again mainly from pharmacological results. The finding from animal experiments that drugs used in the treatment of schizophrenia act as antagonists of the CNS actions of the monoamine dopamine, and conversely that drugs such as amphetamine which release dopamine in the brain can provoke schizophrenia-like psychosis are the pillars of the so called "dopamine hypothesis," which suggests that schizophrenia may be associated with an overactivity in one or other of the cerebral dopaminergic systems. Direct clinical evidence has again been difficult to obtain. Although studies of the dopamine metabolite homovanillic acid in cerebrospinal fluid show that antischizophrenic drugs exert a clear effect on cerebral dopamine metabolism in man, there is no evidence from such studies in drug-free schizophrenic patients of any abnormality in CNS dopamine metabolism. Such negative findings, of course, are not conclusive since no techniques exist which allow one to assess a possible abnormality of dopamine systems in some restricted region, such as the dopaminergic neurones in the limbic areas of brain. The author would be the first to admit that ultimately it may prove impossible to explain the chemical pathology of all forms of depression and schizophrenia in terms of a single group of brain chemicals, the monoamines. Nevertheless, there are few viable alternatives for biological research in psychiatry as yet, and the monoamines have provided an immensely important research challenge for psychiatric research for more than a decade.

The present monograph is a masterly overview of a difficult area, and should

prove a valuable text for all students of biological psychiatry. The emphasis is on clinical studies, but the coverage is comprehensive, and the reference lists are valuable surveys of the field up to the time of writing in 1975.

L. L. IVERSEN

Handbook of Neurologic Emergencies

By Desmond S. O'Doherty and Joseph L. Fermaglich. (Pp. 344; illustrated; £7.50.) Henry Kimpton: London. 1977. This is a textbook of neurology written for the non-neurologist with whom the patient's initial contact is most often made. An attempt is made to classify acute neurological illness under only seven headings. Starting from the condition of the patient, hopefully placed under only one of the seven headings, the physician works towards a diagnosis. The philosophy of this approach is attractive, and the book may be of value to the intended user. The content is repetitive, largely due to acknowledgement that many conditions must appear under two or more headings. Statements such as papillitis being infection involving the optic nerve head, or decerebrate posture being universal flexion, detract from the book's credibility. Line drawings and tables are generally helpful but photographs are of poor quality. A minor irritation is that illustrations and relevant text are often not adjacent. Perhaps the second edition will be a useful purchase.

W. F. DURWARD

Handbook for Differential Diagnosis of Neurologic Signs and Symptoms By Kenneth M. Heilman, Robert T. Watson, and Melvin Greer. (Pp. 231; illustrated; \$8.95.) Appleton-Century-Crofts: New York. 1977.

This extraordinary book is described as a problem orientated guide to neurological disorders. It consists of 112 tables, some short, some extremely long, with one extending over 11 pages. The tables are grouped under major symptom headings such as coma, weakness, mental deficiency and so on, and each is preceded by a short introduction. The analysis of cranial nerve and brain stem disorders are particularly good, based as they are on anatomical and physiological considerations. The ingenuity of the differential diagnoses deserves mention—for example, the 61 causes of dizziness ranging from abscess, cerebellar to Vogt-Koyanagi-Havada syn-

drome, not forgetting impacted cerumen.

Taken as a whole it would be indigestible; dipped into it is intriguing, but it can only act as an index or aide-memoire to an orthodox method of diagnosis.

I. T. DRAPER

Treatment of Cerebral Palsy and Motor Delay By Sophie Levitt. (Pp. 269; illustrated; £11.95.) Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford. 1977.

This should have been a valuable book for doctors and therapists who look after children suffering from cerebral palsy. Miss Levitt is an experienced (and fortunately sometimes opinionated) therapist, well qualified to write it. Unfortunately she has produced a confused repetitive book which must be firmly disrecommended to any junior therapist. The first chapter, pages 1-13, is guaranteed to baffle anyone wishing to learn about the classification and manifestations of cerebral palsy, and the subjects of spasticity, hypotonicity, and ataxia recur in different contexts throughout the book, together with confusing references to their neurological connotations.

Occasionally Miss Levitt's ability to think clearly in a theoretical framework shows through as in "The Educative Viewpoint in Therapy" (page 36). In general it does not. Yet she gives admirable descriptions of physiotherapeutic techniques which must surely be unique.

The book is nicely produced, if rather expensive, with good photographs and reasonable "stick man" drawings, illustrating child development and its deviations.

A carefully edited text, about one-third the length of this one, might have been helpful in a way which this volume is not.

T. T. S. INGRAM

Notice

The Ninth International Symposium on Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism will be held in Tokyo from 28 May to 1 June 1979. Further information can be obtained from the Conference Office, c/o Fumio Gotoh, MD, Department of Neurology, Keio University School of Medicine, 35 Shinanomachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

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