these methods of management. The other four chapters comprise brief reviews of aspects of migraine which are more comprehensively covered elsewhere in the literature, including blood flow studies, complicated migraine, the pharmacological treatment of migraine and biochemical aspects.

The value of the book lies in the discussion of the use of relaxation and biofeedback techniques in migraine. The review article on this subject by Dr Seymour Diamond and his colleagues is particularly well referenced. Readers will not be surprised to hear that these techniques may be of some value in some patients, but it is not possible to predict which patients will profit from these procedures. Possible mechanisms of action are discussed, but no firm conclusion is drawn. Physicians wishing to try these methods will consult a more definitive text and the reader will search this volume in vain for overall guidance in the management of migraine.

MD O'BRIEN

Guide for House Physicians in the Neurological Unit. By T Fowler. (Pp 150; £5.25.) London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd, 1982.

Despite the disclaimer in the preface, this is a potted textbook and as such contains necessarily brief descriptions of most neurological diseases under chapter headings such as Infections, Cerebrovascular disease, Demyelinating disease, etc as set out in most reference books (of which,

presumably, at least one would be readily available on any neurological ward) although it does in addition contain chapters on History Taking and Neurological Examination, Investigations, The Unconscious Patient, The Respiratory Care Unit. The layout of this book is such that, although it contains a good deal of useful information, it does not readily provide answers to the sort of questions likely to be asked by junior staff in action in a neurological department, and required of a book intended, despite its slightly too large bulk, to be carried in the pocket. Thus, although the section on Examination does contain useful information, for example, on segmental innervation, there is no overall guide on how to draw conclusions from the symptoms and signs elicited. The section on epilepsy whilst it lists causes, investigations and drugs gives no guidance as to how to manage patients presenting with epilepsy, when to start drugs, how long they should be used or what advice to give to patients with restrictions on driving etc and there is no reminder in the section of status epilepticus of the importance of seeking the underlying cause. It is as difficult to extract the relevant practical information from this book as from any textbook and because of this my own junior staff at a regional neurological unit did not feel that it would be useful to them. It might, perhaps, be a useful book for either a senior student or a first post houseman, but in this case should probably contain more basic information such as the indications, contra-indications and risks of lumbar puncture.

PAULINE MONRO

The Behavior of Psychiatric Patients. Quantitative Techniques for Evaluation. Edited by Eugene I Burdock, Abraham Sudilovsky and Samuel Gershon. (Pp 608; SFr 198.) New York: Marcel Dekker, 1982.

A modest advance has been made towards operationalising some of the elements involved in the classification of psychiatric disorders so that studies of validity can be made more comparable. This book records some of the efforts that have been made in the United States towards this end. It is not comprehensive even for the US and does not pretend to adventure beyond national borders. None of the chapters is long enough to deal in detail with any particular segment of the mental state or clinical history. There is little evidence of any attempt on the part of the editors to impose a pattern on their authors or to insist on a minimum degree of comparability between chapters. Individual contributors are left to air their preferences and their prejudices as they please.

The editors claim, in their preface, to have provided "a simple, comprehensive publication addressed to basic and practical aspects of the clinical measurement of behavioral change". This is a large aim and perhaps it is not surprising that it has not been achieved. Readers who dip into the book will come up with occasional nuggets of useful information, but there is little that cannot be obtained more easily elsewhere.

JK WING