which have not produced well, particularly those in chapter one on the skull. The illustrations are, however, clearly annotated and considerably enhance the book without interfering with the text. In particular I like the way the references were grouped at the end of each chapter, mention being made of them in the text against each pathological process discussed.

The chapter on congenital lesions commences with a good summary of the embryology of the nervous system and as with the layout of most of the chapters there are many tables comparing the radiological features (CT, isotope, angiography etc) of different investigations in different disease processes.

A particularly annoying feature of the book is that there are a large number of spelling mistakes, some of which occur even in the main headings, and one can only wonder whether the authors undertook any proof reading at all. Such an oversight would be very annoying and could well have detracted from an otherwise excellent volume, and I can only assume that if the authors revise this text they will correct these mistakes.

Despite these reservations I enjoyed the book immensely and thought that a lot of effort had been put into its preparation. I can thoroughly recommend it for anyone with an interest in modern Neuroradiological techniques, and it could well become one of the standard text books of the 1980's.

DPE KINGSLEY

The Biology of Anxiety. Edited by Roy J Mathew. (Pp 300; \$38.92.) New York: Brunner/Mazel Publishers, 1982.

Twenty years ago the thought of a psychiatric symposium entirely concerned with biological aspects of clinical anxiety would have been inconceivable. Anxiety had been firmly set in its place as a relatively minor disorder that was best studied by behavioural psychologists and psychotherapists. The true stuff of biologically orientated psychiatry would be found in the study of schizophrenia and the affective psychoses. The tide has turned—a little. This valuable book fills several of the gaps in the literature on anxiety, and, unlike many symposium publications, it has avoided the duplication of work that is described much better elsewhere. So instead of rusty accounts of peripheral catecholamines and the endocrinology of anxiety we read about the differentiation of anxiety from other states of arousal

(Lader), changes in cerebral blood flow in anxiety (Mathew and others), the status and significance of the anxiety prone personality (Carey and Herrenkohl), and the anti-anxiety effects of monoamine oxidase inhibitors (Nies and others), beta-blocking drugs (Pitts and Allen) and biofeedback (Rice and Blanchard) rather than the benzodiazepines. There are three terminal chapters on sleep which look a little out of place but as a whole the book succeeds in its aim of educating "the biologically orientated clinician who is interested in current research trends".

PETER TYRER

Psychiatric Aspects of Neurologic Disease Volume II (Seminars in Psychiatry series). Edited by D Frank Benson and Dietrich Blumer. (Pp 325; \$24.50; £16.20) New York: Grune and Stratton Inc. 1982.

In their introduction to the first volume (1977) the authors deplored the neglect of neuropsychiatry, particularly in their own country, sandwiched so it appeared, between the established psycho-analytical schools and the emergent behaviour therapies. The scene looks rosier now and a little of the credit must go to Benson and Blumer. Their team of authors, mostly north American with a strong New England bias, contributed chapters on frontal lobe function, temporal lobe epilepsy, and other favorite borderline topics. No attempt was made to be comprehensive. The second volume follows the same formula and is broadly complementary. There are chapters on epilepsy (3), dementia (4) and movement disorders (1) along with more specialised reviews on such diverse topics as the psychiatry of multiple sclerosis, and stuttering. Especially recommended are alcoholic dementia by Cutting, Goetz and Klawans on tardive dyskinesia and the editors on the psychiatric manifestations of epilepsy, the latter marred only by critical tunnel vision when contemplating the Bostonian revival of the concept of temporal lobe personality. The merit of multi-authorship, each expert addressing his chosen subject, is clear to see. The authors have remarked on its failing, the tendency to unevenness. Certainly the book is uneven, but less on account of stylistic variation, more because of choice of topic and allocation of space. As many pages are allowed for the episodic discontrol syndrome as are given to the whole subject of amnesia, which permits the former a detailed and scholarly review (more, some might say,

than the subject deserves), while the latter can only aim at a level that should prove more suitable for the specialist exam student. In the years between the volumes major text books on neuropsychiatry have appeared making such an approach appear more redundant than seemed the case in 1977. Future volumes might do better to concentrate on detailed reviews and highly selected topics, otherwise the price may come to seem increasingly less competitive.

BRIAN K TOONE

Topics in Child Neurology, Volume 2. Edited by Graham Wise, Michael E Blaw and Peter G Procopis. (Pp 257; £30.95.) Lancs: MTP Press Limited, 1983.

A wide variety of paediatric neurological subjects (intended I suspect for the general paediatrician and neurologist) are dealt with in this book. It is quite interesting in parts but probably fails to attract any specific readership.

The book starts well, with a well written chapter by David Clark on the personalities involved in the neuropathology of childhood. It is followed by good reviews of the antenatal diagnosis of Duchenne muscular dystrophy and its natural history, and the promotion of ambulation by Victor Dubowitz and David Gardner-Medwin. There follow some chapters on epilepsy with a very good review of neuronal events underlying epileptogenesis by David Prince and evolution of the EEG in normal children by Eeg-Ologsson which would be of considerable interest to paediatric neurologists but not of much practical value to the general paediatrician. The chapter on normal EEGs however, may be of considerable value to those who run an EEG service which includes children. The Aicardi and Chevrie paper on the natural history of epilepsy in the first year of life is a very useful summary pointing particularly to the close relationship between infantile spasms and other forms of severe epilepsy occurring at that time. The chapter on anti-convulsant therapy is rather inadequate and poorly referenced. There then follows a series of papers on cerebral metabolism which although they contain useful information, fail to be critical enough for the specialist reader or a sufficient general interest for those whose major concern is practical management. The chapter on catecholamine metabolism by Segawa is a very useful summary of the subject, however.

There are some rather parochial chapters on learning disabilities which fail to