Brain Mechanisms of Perceptual Awareness and Purposeful Behavior. Edited by Ottavio Pompeiano and Cosimo Ajmone Marsan. (Pp 516; \$77.52.) New York: Raven Press, 1981.

This book collects contributions to the 1980 Pisa symposium of the same title, held in honour of Professor G Moruzzi's 70th birthday and retirement. The chapter authors are eminent, as no doubt befits such an occasion, and their contributions make fascinating reading, mostly being short pertinent reviews of one or other aspect of brain function. The book is divided into three sections. The first collects contributions on sensory processing and the functional organisation of the cerebral cortex. Chapters of anatomical, physiological, physical and theoretical bias are to be found, and the preponderance, as ever, is on the visual system. The second section, on cerebral neural mechanisms in motor control, includes three chapters on excellent muscle spindle and spinal cord physiology (which go a little beyond the strict title of the book) and five others on brain mechanisms. The last section, on internal regulatory mechanisms of the brain, covers selective attention and sleep cycle control. The authors and editors are to be congratulated on this unusually absorbing set of contributions on a wide diversity of subjects that reflects the breadth of Murozzi's interests.

DN RUSHTON

Neuropathology: A Summary for Students By Richard W Leech and Robert M Shuman (Pp 257 £10.98) London: Harper and Row Ltd 1982.

A summary for students: just what teachers of neuropathology to undergraduates have been waiting for, it appeared from a glance at this paper-back. There are no texts available which can be recommended wholeheartedly to the undergraduate student during his course of integrated teaching on the Nervous System. Treip's Colour Atlas of Neuropathology lies nearest to the students requirements, but is best used as a supplement to a textbook.

Leech and Shuman's paper-back is initially attractive, certainly not one of a series of "Lecture notes on..." or "A synopsis of..." beloved by those who like long lists of facts to memorise. But it is startling to find that there is little discussion of morphology or illustration of his-

topathology. There are numerous diagrams, some very useful, but they do not show pathological processes. The preface gives the reason: "emphasis has been placed on pathologic correlates rather than on fundamental morphology". How can one make pathologic correlates without knowing the pathology? Take cerebrovascular disease as an example. There is much, even repetitive, discussion of stroke and atherosclerosis, hypertension, of extracranial and intracranial arteries with no more mention of infarction than that it consists of necrosis. The cellular reactions, the alteration in size, the poor attempt at healing are all ignored, even though a vital part of biological correlation. Many similar examples could be given, illustrating a lack of appreciation of the needs of the student.

Many rare topics are included which are unnecessary and sometimes misleading. Lafora bodies are "found in" myoclonus epilepsy, giving the impression that they are always present. Brain stem herniation "causes cranial nerve palsies". Does it always? Vascular steal syndromes and Binswanger's disease, like many others, should really be left for postgraduate study.

This book is a disappointment when its intended purpose is considered: the students will be bewildered by its emphasis on the rare and controversial and will be confused by the deliberate inaccuracy of some of the diagrams. That is not to say that it is valueless: there are several very good sections, such as the chapter on Metabolic Diseases: it will be best used by those who have the experience to be selective.

The market for a students text on Neuropathology is still wide open.

DGF HARRIMAN

Brain Failure and Resuscitation. Volume 2 of Clinics in Critical Care Medicine. Edited by Ake Grenvik and Peter Safar. (Pp 268; £25.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1981.

This book is an attempt to cover the field of a controversial subject by the increasingly popular technique of multi-authorship.

The concept of brain failure as a specific clinical entity is a recent one which, I suspect, has not yet been accepted by many physicians and surgeons. There is no doubt that the text is comprehensive and up-to-date. However, to my perhaps insular sensibilities, the disparate styles (and some of the "Americanese") make for difficult reading.

Jennett is his usual down-to-earth model of clarity in the introductory chapter, and I could not help wondering what he makes of

the final chapter entitled "Decision making in Brain Death and Vegetative States" which even includes a section headed "Theology"! The chapters relating to physiology, electrophysiological measurement and cerebral blood flow required considerable concentration. They concluded, quite properly, that although newer techniques such as cerebral blood flow, evoked responses and intracranial pressure monitoring are interesting and possibly useful, their place in the current management of patients has not yet been established. I particularly enjoyed Safar's chapter headed "Resuscitation after Brain Ischaemia" and Teasdale and Galbraith's chapter "Head Trauma & Intracranial Haemorrhage". The references are clear and comprehensive.

Although the appeal of this book may be limited almost solely to those physicians concerned with the problem, for them I believe, it will form essential reading. It seems to me that the American criteria for "brain death" are unnecessarily complicated when compared with our own. These latter I fully support in their amended form which includes repetition of the essential brain stem function tests.

JOHN GUMPERT

Diseases of the Temporomandibular Apparatus: a Multidisciplinary Approach (2nd edition). Edited by Douglas H Morgan, Leland R House, William Hall and S James Vamvas. (Pp 658; \$47.00.) London, C V Mosby Company, 1982.

This huge and lavishly produced book contains contributions from 30 dental, two neuro- and two ENT surgeons, two psychiatrists and a radiologist with many superb diagrams and radiographs. Chapters deal with anatomy, physiology, development of the jaw and the effect of breast feeding, diagnosis, clinical and special examinations including radiology, as well as treatment with surgery, biofeed back, acupuncture, electrical acupoint therapy, pharmacology, psychotherapy, orthodontics, kinesiography, neurosurgery, microvascular decompression in the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia (by Jannetta) and legal aspects. A number of authors are keen form-fillers and reproduce their three to four page questionnaires that they complete in their "work up" of a patient. For the practising neurologist there are sections dealing with tinnitus and vertigo in relation to temporomandibular joint dysfunction although the mechanism of each of these