Book reviews

epidemiology of depressive disorders is also to be studied and in some centres, the work will be linked with a more detailed study of a particular aspect of depressive illness for example, biological changes.

An important aspect of the book is that full details of the screening schedule and of SADD are given. It would be of great interest to know how these methods of assessing depressive symptomatology compare with the "present state examination"¹ and the "general health questionnaire"² respectively, both of which have been used in many countries and languages.

RHS MINDHAM

References

- ¹ Wing JK, Birley JLT, Cooper JE, Graham P, Isaacs AD. Reliability of a procedure for measuring and classifying "Present Psychiatric State". *Br J Psychiatry* 1967;113:499-515.
- ² Goldberg D. Detecting Psychiatric Illness by Questionnaire. *Maudsley Monograph* 22, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1972.

Essentials of Neurology (5th edition). By Sir John Walton. (Pp 488; £10.95 (paperback).) London, Pitman Books Ltd, 1982.

Receipt of the latest edition of this excellent work precipitated a moment of nostalgia: a battered second edition, which still lingers on my shelves, had steered me through the membership examination.

Long experiences of teaching, clarity of thought and terse prose make it possible for the author to encompass all the basic ingredients of clinical neurology in an easily readable form. Although the text has been thoroughly revised to omit outdated material and to include the advances neurology has seen during the past five years, the basic format remains unchanged. Introductory chapters deal with symptoms, signs and investigations, the second section adopts a pathophysiological approach (consciousness, the mind, speech, special senses, motor, sensory and autonomic systems) and there follows an account of individual diseases set out in traditional fashion (hereditary, degenerative etc.). The treatment available for all forms of neurological disease is dealt with separately in a final chapter. Newcomers might prefer to learn about therapy as they are introduced to individual diseases but the "outline" of treatment given here avoids the repetition

inherent in this approach.

Although every page is crammed with facts the text is easy to follow and stimulates interest: ideal for those postgraduates engaged in their higher examinations and for the more enthusiastic medical student.

Criticisms? On page 68 the publishers have a CT scan, (an invention of Godfrey rather than Geoffrey Hounsfield), upside down: the haematoma becomes left parietal rather than right frontal!

JEFFREY GAWLER

Symptomatic Affective Disorders. By FA Whitlock. (Pp 218; \$24.00.) New York: Academic Press, 1983.

Both depressive and manic disorders can be precipitated by physical illness or by drug treatment. This, now anodyne, fact has not been followed up by researchers as energetically as many of the other pathways of biological psychiatry. Professor Whitlock tries to put the record straight and reminds us of the implications of this interaction between medicine, pharmacology and psychiatry by reviewing the world literature on the topic. He does this well and highlights our deficiencies in knowledge as well as the more positive impact of findings such as the precipitation of depressive illness by treatment of hypertension with reserpine. Thus, for example, although most clinicians are aware that infectious disease very commonly precipitates psychiatric disturbance there is hardly an investigation worthy of the name that examines this issue.

The major methodological problem encountered in these enquiries is the impossibility of deciding whether a temporal association between physical and psychiatric illness is a chance finding, a casual link or a non-specific triggering effect. Despite this, Whitlock is able to conclude that affective illness occurring in the setting of organic brain damage is usually a direct consequence of the brain disease, and that drug-induced depression and mania mainly occurs in subjects with a constitutional predisposition to affective disorders. He ends the book by making a plea for improved observation and precision in recording affective symptoms in physical illness, the need for which is reinforced by the uncritical and often shoddy conclusions made by workers in this field. There is an extensive list of references but few from authors whose native tongue is not English. The book can be strongly recommended as

a mandatory source for those who wish to know more about the relationship between physical and psychiatric illness.

PETER TYRER

Neuroleptics: Neurochemical, Behavioural and Clinical Perspectives. (Central Nervous System Pharmacology). Edited by Joseph T Coyle and SJ Enna. (Pp 341; \$68.20.) New York: Raven Press, 1983.

Neuroleptics have been important drugs in psychiatry and neurology for 30 years. Much has been learnt about their neurochemical, behavioural and clinical aspects. Quite simply, this book is the best up-to-date overview of our knowledge of these drugs. The book is multi-authored but has been meticulously edited as, unusual in multi-authored books, the chapters are uniformly informative, well written and clear. Each chapter briefly reviews the topic historically, details the current state of the art and then gives pointers to the future. The range of the book is commendably wide, dealing with the clinical use in psychotic and neurological disorders, the side-effects, in particular, tardive dyskinesia, behavioural and biochemical effects and with the complicated issue of receptor interactions. The final chapter critically discusses the dopamine hypothesis of schizophrenia, charting a well-sounded course between the Scylla of heralding an immediate breakthrough and the Charybdis of discounting the possibility of any imminent progress in this area. The book can be thoroughly recommended as the best text on neuroleptics extant.

MH LADER

Essential Neurology (2nd) (A Concise Textbook). By William Pryse-Phillips and TJ Murray. (Pp 714; \$32.50, paperback.) New York: Medical Examination Publishing Co Inc, 1982.

Travelling from Hamilton, Ontario to St John's, Newfoundland was a particularly appropriate time to review this general neurology textbook. Appropriate because the journey takes several days (unless one makes the mistake of going by air rather than by the far more interesting alternative of train, extraordinarily cheap ferries, and bus) and this book is quite a long read, and appropriate because one passes through the backyard of one author before arriving