correct. Certainly the sodium pump and myelin thickness are related to these, but not quite so directly as implied. I then realised that I had been misled by the title of the book to expect a discussion on the basic sciences relevant to clinical neurology. In fact there is little physiology and less anatomy. A future edition could profitably expand the brief statement on neuronal migration. The strength of the book is in its concise accounts of neuropathological mechanisms and the disturbances of function due to specified lesions of the human nervous system. As an account of disordered function made apparent through clinical signs and symptoms, it is superb and I have not read a better. Sir John has a gift for extracting the essence of a clinical problem and at the same time adding the illuminating observation of an experienced clinician. The proposed pathophysiological mechanisms are generally accepted. One might have added to the descriptions of causalgia and paraesthesias some description of the probable mechanisms. Some discussions on the possible causes of syringomyelia would be appropriate and the account of motor control has a somewhat old-fashioned air. Defects are not enough to raise the intercranial (sic) pressure listed in the index. This is a book to be recommended for those who already have a little knowledge of neurobiology and the clinical signs of neurological disease. If I was recommending a reading list for a self-tutored neurology registrar I would start with Gordon Holmes' "Introduction" and Draper's "Lecture Notes", follow with this book, and go on to Victor and Adams' "Principles". After that he should be ready for the major Walton opera. For the appropriate stage of training this new book, derived from the Neurology section of a volume on Pathophysiology of International Textbook of Medicine is perfectly judged (and remarkably cheap).

JA SIMPSON

Neurosurgical Management for the House Officer. By Allan H Friedman and Robert H Wilkins. (Pp 169; £6.75.) London: Williams & Wilkins, 1984.

The 165 pages of this pocket sized book are packed with information which is pertinent, contemporary, suitably referenced and usefully tabulated. It is difficult to take issue with the substance of any of the 15 chapters. Indeed, a house officer thus equipped would be a most effective and thoroughly competent practitioner. That

said, this reviewer is in some doubt whether the manner in which this information is presented and displayed is conducive to its learning.

The text is printed in an unarresting type face; and the format is rigorously subsectioned and tediously repetitive. Also, the prose is dry and borders on the telegraphic. In short, it is not easy to digest. These detractors are compounded by illustrations that sometimes are carelessly drawn, frequently use lettering no more than 1.5 mm in size and occasionally are, in parts, frankly illegible. If the reasons for this utilitarian production are cost, this could be false economy. The market is there, but it may not be captured by such an unstimulating—though scientifically sound—product.

RF GLEDHILL

Monographs in Ophthalmology Series. The Visual System in Myelin Disorders. Edited by A Neetens, A Lowenthal, JJ Martin. (Pp 518; £57.25.) The Hague: Dr. W. Junk BV, 1984.

There are 61 papers in this book from 54 authors distinguished in their own field. The editors intended each contribution to give a "state of the art" so as to provide "clear information to both the ophthalmologist and the neurologist to stimulate mutual interest and to lead to inter-related contributions". Although many authors have attempted to cover the whole spectrum of myelin disorders inevitably the majority of material deals with multiple sclerosis. The editors' overall view of the subject has an interesting historical introduction including the clinical details of the first reported case of multiple sclerosis in the autobiography of Augustus d'Este who was grandson of George III, and complained of blurred vision, double vision, numbness, weak legs, and sphincter disturbance. The remainder of this introduction which is the single, largest contribution to the book, reviews other aspects of recent advances in the field which are subsequently covered in more detail by other authors.

The book is divided into four main sections, myelin and physiological myelination, general physio-pathology of myelin disorders, human and animal myelin disorders, and treatment and prevention of disorders of myelin. The quality of papers is variable and in general the clinical papers provide the most useful subject review.

In the basic science sections the material

is often inappropriate to the knowledge of general interests of neurologists or ophthalmologists. For example, one and a half pages and two references on enzymology, metabolism and turnover of myelin is too succinct to provide a useful introduction to this field. The most useful sections include those on the value of contrast sensitivity studies and visual psychophysical tests in demyelinating disease although it is unfortunate that contrast sensitivity function has been abbreviated CSF. There are useful contributions on chiasmal and post-chiasmal involvement, nystagmus and multiple sclerosis, imaging techniques, and technical aspects of the recording of eye movements and extra-ocular muscle EMG.

In general this book tries to cover too wide a field. The basic science sections do not consistently provide information at the level appropriate to clinical neurologists and ophthalmologists. This is disappointing as this juxtaposition of basic and clinical science has been very successful in other recently published neuro-ophthalmology text books. The clinical sections would undoubtedly be of value to neurologists, many being comprehensive and well referenced.

CJK ELLIS

Jelliffe: American Psychoanalyst and Physician. By John C Burnham and His Correspondence with Sigmund Freud and C.G. Jung. Edited by William McGuire. (Pp 324; £17.00.) London: University of Chicago Press, 1983.

Anyone researching into the history of neuropsychiatry will know of Smith Elly Jelliffe (1866-1945) and of the strange combination of neurology and homespun psychoanalysis contained in his writings.

The first section of Professor Burnham's book attempts to explain this admixture. Jelliffe comes across as a selfmade polymath, of the American variety, who administered well his erudition. He is charitably described as a "broker" or "mediator" of ideas and the point is made that he was not an original or creative scientist. This is certainly the unconvincing figure he cuts to those on this side of the Atlantic. It would be nearer the mark to say that he was a hard working medical journalist, something of a polyglot who assiduously courted his European connections. His erudition, patchy as it was, plugged a glaring gap in the parochial medical environment of his period and contributed in no small measure to his success.

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Jellife's conversion to psychoanalysis requires interpretation but Professor Burnham is reticent in this respect. Equally absent from the book is an assessment of the real effect that his psychoanalytic proclivities had on American neuropsychiatry. Nothing is said either on Jellife's flawed version of the psychosomatic view and on how it relates to the demise of the American psychosomatic school of between the Wars.

Professor Burnham manages, however, masterly to depict the chilling politics behind the medical journalism of this period. The history of the origins of the Chicago "Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry" is however uncomfortably reminiscent of that of some of its British counterparts. This book should be obligatory reading for editors of journals that try to serve, like the "Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases" under Jellife once did, different specialisms at the same time.

The second part of the book contains about 77 letters, of varied length and relevance, from the Freud, Jung and Jellife Correspondence. They corroborate early insights into the personalities of Freud and Jung but say a great deal more about Jellife himself. The book ends with a complete and useful list of Jellife's writings.

The central contribution of this restrained biography is to the history of early 20th century American neuropsychiatry and psychoanalysis. It is less adequate on the history of the European scene which Jellife is supposed to have painstakingly translated for his contemporaries. Be that as it may, it has prepared the terrain for later researchers who will have to deal with the question of the extent of Jellife's contribution (or lack of it) to American neuropsychiatry.

GE BERRIOS

Biofeedback: Principles and Practice for Clinicians. 2nd Edition. Edited by John V Basmajian. (Pp 390; £29.00). London: Williams & Wilkins. 1984.

This is the second edition of a collection of contributions by North American authors of different theoretical persuasion ranging from behavioural to psychodynamic, amongst whom are some prominent biofeedback clinicians and researchers. In this new edition, the book has increased in size from the original 21 chapters and 282 pages to 30 chapters and 390 pages and is divided into six parts: Introduction and Neuroscience, Neurology and Rehabilita-

tion, Psychotherapeutic Applications, Special Applications, Technical Considerations and Envoy.

The new chapters cover applications of EEG biofeedback, use of biofeedback in pain management, in dentistry and in the treatment of Raynaud's disease, and also employment of computers and construction of goniometers for biofeedback. The chapter on the scientific basis of biofeedback from the first edition has been divided into one on striated muscle and another on the autonomic nervous system.

The chapters from the first edition have been altered to varying degrees, but the references have not always been updated and a large proportion are unpublished papers presented at scientific meetings. There are inevitable overlaps in the content of chapters and selective reading of chapters on applications of biofeedback to particular problems may be more fruitful.

In the majority of chapters in parts 2, 3 and 4, which cover the diverse applications of biofeedback, the authors' approach to and practice of biofeedback in their own clinics or laboratories is outlined. These sections of the book especially part 2 (Neurology and Rehabilitation) are therefore a "gold mine" of practical suggestions by experienced biofeedback clinicians and researchers. Part 5 of the book is also recommendable reading, as the contributors manage to convey technical information on biofeedback circuitry and instrumentation in simple and understandable language.

One criticism is that in some chapters, besides presentation of unsystematic case reports no attempt has been made to substantiate the author's approach to and claims for the efficacy of biofeedback. Adler and Adler (Chapter 17) even go as far as suggesting that "the practical observation of experienced clinicians can be trusted more than the superficial and potentially deceptive data produced by studies which use only biofeedback. If the experience of many clinicians concurs, the evidence becomes more compelling". This apparent discouragement of systematic evaluation of biofeedback is likely to undermine future prospects of biofeedback's legitimacy as a valid treatment which can only be established through rigorous research.

In the preface to the second edition, the editor claims that this book on biofeedback is the "state of the art and science today". The book does reflect the art of practising biofeedback treatment but does not include enough empirical evidence to allow

an evaluation of the scientific position of biofeedback in terms of specificity and somatic vs cognitive mediation of its effects and its cost-effectiveness.

As the editor indicates the possibility of a third edition, inclusion of chapters on biofeedback outcome and process studies may be a worthwhile addition. Also a further chapter on single-case methodologies would be a step towards encouraging Schwartz' recommendation in part 6 for the adoption of a research-oriented problem-solving approach to therapy.

MARJAN JAHANSHAH

Effects of Aging on Regulation of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism. (Vol. 11 of Monographs in Neural Sciences series)—2nd Satellite Symposium, San Remo, June/July 1983. Edited by C Fieschi, CW Loeb & GL Lenzi. (Pp 258; \$98.25.) Basel: Karger, 1984.

As the proportion of the population in the higher age groups increases, interest in ageing (spelt in the title of this book as aging) grows. This volume presents the 39 papers given at a symposium held at San Remo in 1983 with an introduction by Sokoloff. Emphasis is very much as the title implies on the changes in cerebral blood flow and metabolism which accompany advancing years. This is very much a book for the person with a special interest but as such is a useful summary of current activity in the field.

JOHN MARSHALL

Controversies in Neuro-urology. Edited by David M Barrett and Alan J Wein. (Pp 549; £64.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1984.

The editors of this book state that its purpose is to present topics, dealing particularly with the evaluation and management of voiding and sexual dysfunction, in such a way that opposing viewpoints can be seen in context. The editors have interposed brief comments at relevant points between chapters. This rather unusual format results in an attractively readable book. Most of the authors state not only their views and opinions but describe the methodology of the techniques under discussion in their chapters so that the book contains much that is useful not only to experts, but also to those not professing to