Book reviews

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 it 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