ters on various aspects of magnetic resonance imaging including chemical shift imaging. The only problem with this book, as with PET, is its price.

JD PICKARD

Lecture Notes on Neurology, 6th ed. By Ivan T Draper. (Pp 209; £7.50.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1985.

This paperback was first published in 1965 and its age is beginning to show. In any book reprinted and revised over 21 years, defects are likely to become evident, particularly in a specialty such as neurology, where advances in therapeutics, and imaging techniques have been so dramatic. Likewise, the emphasis in a textbook written twenty years ago was different from what would be considered important now. But, even in 1965, it is hard to believe that neurosyphilis justified four pages in a book of 217 pages; whereas the chapter devoted to the whole subject of vertigo is barely 1½ pages long.

The accounts given of various conditions tend to include in a single section, the description not only of the clinical features, but also the pathology. This detracts from the clarity of the description and is unlikely to help the undergraduate student. Similarly, the description of cerebrovascular disease fails to clearly distinguish persisting from transient cerebral ischaemia, and the sections on treatment fail to give details of pharmacokinetics, (for example of anti-convulsants or anti-Parkinsonian drugs). This information is, surely, essential in the management. One occasionally comes across relatively opaque statements such as "Selegiline reduces the disabilities which lessen the effectiveness of long term levodopa".

There is little guidance as to the indications for different methods of imaging or investigation. Computed tomography is only mentioned specifically in six lines of text, with the concluding remark "Now becoming more widely available...." Magnetic resonance imaging is not mentioned.

The book is designed for undergraduate teaching and the first parts achieve this aim with a well written and concise description of neurological anatomy, physiology, clinical history and examination. I would have liked a much more detailed revision of the section devoted to describing diseases of the nervous system. There are more readable and satisfactory texts available.

RB GODWIN-AUSTEN

Understanding Brain Damage. A primer of neuropsychological evaluation. By Kevin W Walsh. (Pp 243; £17.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1985.

Kevin Walsh's new book represents both an extension and a departure from his previous excellent survey of neuropsychological knowledge. Whereas the previous book was concerned to identify and structure our knowledge of brain behaviour relationships, the new book is an attempt to put this knowledge firmly into clinical practice. The attempt has succeeded magnificently.

The book begins with a statement of philosophy, and then deals in detail with a variety of clinical conditions which commonly present in a neuropsychological clinic (for example, alcohol related brain damage, intellectual decline, pseudo neurological disorders, head injury, and cerebrovascular disease). For each condition, the author gives a brief but informative account of relevant pathophysiological and neuropsychological information, and then describes a series of clinical cases, giving very considerable information about their neuropsychological assessment. The philosophy of assessment is one that relies on a detailed focused history; a *brief* neuropsychological examination, and a clinically informed interpretation of the test results. The approach is one that the reviewer favours, but those who like exhaustive test batteries, and detailed microanalysis of every possible psychological function will be surprised at the apparent brevity of the examinations carried out. The brevity is, however, combined with focused clarity, and it is a very pragmatic yet clinically appropriate model of practice.

The book is excellent, and at £17.00 it is a bargain.

DN BROOKS

Recent Advances in the Management of Pain. (Advances in Pain Research and Therapy, Volume 7.) Edited by Constantino Benedetti, C Richard Chapman and Guido Moricca. (Pp 712; \$105.50.) New York: Raven Press, 1984.

The *Advances in Pain Research and Therapy* series, sponsored by the International Association for the Study of Pain, includes the proceedings of the triennial world congresses and other volumes from smaller symposia. These books have proved very useful sources, but this recent addition to the series is the least successful. This is partly

because it appears that an undertaking has been given to all the participants in the symposium to publish their contributions, of variable scientific standard, and partly because the book embraces much more than pain management, with several chapters on other topics including, amongst others, pain mechanisms (very well covered in the recent volume 6 of this series), measurement of pain, and chronic pain with depression. Though many of these chapters are excellent, they unnecessarily lengthen an already large and expensive volume. It is surely not intended that each volume of the series should attempt to be a complete textbook of pain, and more editorial thought might have been given to this problem.

In the first section, on basic considerations, Wall has written a stimulating review of the neurophysiology of acute and chronic pain. Particularly important is his challenge of the validity of currently widely used tests for pain in animal experiments. He argues persuasively that most of these tests are not measurements of chronic pain at all, and it is a sobering thought that conclusions drawn from the results of such tests form the basis of many of our present concepts of acute and chronic pain. In a section on pharmacological treatment, Butler reviews the present status of tricyclic antidepressants in chronic pain, in a wide range of conditions including headache, facial pain, arthritis, denervation states, low back pain and cancer. Reported results are generally favourable, but as with so many other pain treatments, there is a dearth of properly controlled clinical trials. Fraioli and colleagues contribute to the interesting recent literature on the analgesic action of calcitonin; its place in treatment of chronic pain remains uncertain. In a section dealing with other modalities and approaches, Murphy and Anderson describe a multidisciplinary approach to chronic pain management, as used in the Seattle pain clinic. Pain clinics in Britain are mostly not run along these lines and this chapter makes interesting reading. While the patient may benefit from the combined expertise of such clinics, treatment "by committee" requires a strong chairman to direct management and take overall clinical responsibility, and it should not be assumed that patients will always be best managed in this way.

The largest section in the book, entitled pain and pain syndromes, includes a number of interesting chapters. Benedetti *et al* address the continuing important problem of post-operative pain. An extensive review of the duration and severity of pain following different operations is followed by a con-

sideration of the heterogeneity of pain mechanisms, details of pain treatments and the problems arising directly as a result of analgesia. This is an excellent chapter, full of useful practical advice. The enigma of reflex sympathetic dystrophy is discussed by Rizzi and co-authors. The usual difficulties of definition and terminology quickly emerge, and this probably has some bearing on the surprisingly good short and long term results of treatment in their patients. In a stimulating chapter, Benedetti and Bonica draw attention to the magnitude of the cancer pain problem. Pagni reviews the numerous neurosurgical procedures for cancer pain, discussing older as well as newer operations. Only ablative procedures are considered, thalamotomy receiving a relatively brief review. It is a pity that deep brain stimulation is not considered, either here or in any other chapter; most neurosurgeons concerned with pain relief are coming to the view that in general, stimulation has more to offer than ablation, with a lower morbidity. However, results of ablation or stimulation remain unpredictable and analgesia is often disappointingly short lived. Another cause for concern is the vastly different success rates obtained by different surgeons for any particular operation. Of the two chapters on pituitary ablation, Gianasi presents the more detailed review of Moricca's technique for pain relief in advanced widespread cancer.

There is much of interest and practical value in this book. However, it is over inclusive of topics not directly relevant to pain management which are adequately covered both in this series of books and in other easily accessible sources.

JW SCADDING

Psychiatry, Human Rights and the Law. Edited by Martin Roth and Robert Buglass. (Pp 241; £27.50.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985.

This volume contains contributions made to a conference held in September 1983, shortly before the introduction of the Mental Health Act in England and Wales. It contains contributions from many countries and includes a review of the changes in the Mental Health Act, and the problems arising in the USA and other countries with the increased emphasis on dangerousness as the reason for committal; lessons to be learnt from the Italian experiences, and the many knotty philosophical and practical issues concerned with the care of those who have broken the law

and are also mentally ill. All the contributions are of a high quality and from those who are experts in the field. The longest and most extensive contribution is by Professor Margaret Sommerville of the faculty of Law and the faculty of Medicine, McGill University. This is really a broad review of changes in mental health legislations and the varying emphasis which is put on different issues in different countries. Of crucial importance to British psychiatrists and their patients is the emphasis on "health or safety" as a reason for compulsory admission, rather than "serious dangerousness". As Professor Sommerville states, the latter approach is justified under the States "police power" whereas the former can be justified under the power of the State as a "good parent". One hopes that psychiatrists may still be viewed as good parents rather than as policemen in their ordinary clinical work. The consequences of the police approach is graphically illustrated in a case described by Professor Alan Stone; a young student who became obviously mentally ill at a University but refused to become dangerous, and the distress that the situation caused to himself and those concerned with his care. This volume can be strongly recommended to doctors of all sorts, to those working in the legal profession and to anybody concerned with human rights.

JLT BIRLEY

Panic: Facing Fears, Phobias and Anxiety. By Stewart Agras. (Pp 151; £22.95 h/b; £13.95 p/b.) Oxford: WH Freeman & Co Ltd, 1985.

This, to quote the jacket cover, is "a provocative book for the general reader and psychologist and is indispensable reading for phobia sufferers and their friends and families". When I read this I usually shudder as it is impossible to cater simultaneously for patients, their therapists and the general reader. My doubts were intensified after reading the first chapter on the "territory of fear" that tells us that "a panic attack is an intense burst of anxiety accompanied by marked physiological uproar" and that "common fears are a biological implant aimed at protecting the young against possible injury". The next chapter dwells at length on cardiac aspects of the panic attack and includes a frightening picture of the heart to illustrate mitral valve prolapse, which in America is still felt to be closely related to panic disorder. The poor patient who thinks he might be suffering from panic will then have it confirmed when he reads that his chance of death from heart disease and

stroke is double that of ordinary people. After this dramatic introduction, which no doubt would be described as flooding by the behavioural psychologist, the reader will be tempted to close the book in fright.

This will be a pity, because although Dr Agras continues to make simple things complicated—"certain classes of visual and auditory events activate a biologically endowed learning mechanism"—he does give a comprehensive and useful account of present thinking about phobias, obsessions, panic and their pharmacological and psychological treatments. I had to admire him for the courage with which he tackled subjects that would tax the most illuminating of teachers. We move from a detailed discussion of the phobias of Little Hans to the behavioural theories of JB Watson, and then to a simplified account of brain neurochemistry and neurotransmitters. We are treated to a discussion of Gray's septohippocampal theory of anxiety and an account of benzodiazepine receptors (in which the analogy of space capsules docking at a satellite is used to explain the specificity of receptors). The reader is then whisked away to current treatments for phobias and panic in which the transition from psychodynamic to behavioural and medical treatments is made felicitously without any apparent consistency.

The text is enlivened by some clever cartoons illustrating the most germane points. The artist is not acknowledged and may be related to Professor Agras himself.

In summary this book fails to live up to its impossible expectations but nonetheless gives a comprehensive and fair account of the nature and treatments of this group of often disabling conditions. It will make admirable reading for a patient who is grounded in the basic biological sciences and will also be useful reading for students of both sociology and psychiatry. I am still bothered about the first two chapters; I hope that they do not lead to a new condition: agoraphobia.

PETER TYRRELL

Headache. Diagnostic System and Taxonomic Criteria. By G Nappi and F Savolai. (Pp 116; £17.50.) London: John Libbey & Co Ltd, 1985.

This new book on headache is introduced by a preface written by Frederigo Sicurri which is lavish in personal praise of its authors from the Pavia school in Italy. Alessandro Agnoli follows with a foreword of flowery but quite enchanting prose but concludes: "the headache sufferer will continue