chemical (though penicillamine-induced myasthenia is discussed elsewhere). Also there is no discussion of myasthenia following bone marrow transplantation. However these minor criticisms apart this is a very comprehensive review.

Volume 2 starts off with a chapter on senile dementia (Kellett and Bachelard). This chapter would have been written before some of the recent data from studies using molecular biological techniques were published. That apart, a comprehensive discussion takes place on clinical and social aspects, pathology and the known biochemistry of these conditions. This is a very nicely integrated chapter that then comes back to clinical aspects, having discussed the scientific side, to talk about treatment of the patient and their family. This last section contains some interesting anecdotal situations that I found most enjoyable and instructive, and would recommend this chapter very highly. The second review is on demyelinating disease (Compston, Cuzner and Davison) and is also excellent. It covers clinical aspects, epidemiology, genetics with HLA typing studies, and then goes on to the neurochemistry, neuropathology, chemical pathology and clinical pathology with further discussions on immunology and implications for treatment. I enjoyed this nicely balanced chapter and particularly appreciated that discussions on what is after all an inflammatory disease of the central nervous system were not too obsessed with immunology but also mentioned other mediators of cell damage which may in the end prove to be a more promising avenue therapeutically.

All in all these two volumes are superb. I assume the series is continuing and that both clinical neurologists and neuroscientists will have a series of reviews that they will wish to have on their own or their departments' book-cases rather than in the library. For a neurologist in training they are a must.

AC WILLIAMS

Dementia. Edited by Brice Pitt. (Pp 346; £40.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987.

This is the latest in a spate of books on dementia. Prof. Pitt with 22 selected authors have provided in 20 chapters and 337 pages a balanced and up to date survey of this topic.

The emphasis is naturally on the elderly, but this text is little marred by the soft,

sociological approach which eschews the basic science fundamental both to understanding and advance. There are full descriptions of neurochemistry (Rossor), neuropathology (Scholtz), clinical features (Copeland; Dodwell) each thorough, current and well supplied with references. I particularly enjoyed the early chapters on the history of dementia (U'Ren) and nosology (Berrios). The muddled identity and diagnosis of the multi-infarct state (Wade & Hachinski) are not yet resolved; and, if delirium (Pitt) and depression (Thielman & Blazer) seem removed from the main subject, they have much clinical relevance in diagnosis. It is of interest to read of the alleged structural changes in the brain thought to be due to depression though the implications hang a little precariously.

There is little new in a workmanlike review of drug treatment, the THA literature presumably being published after chapters were submitted. Psychogeriatric and social services, caring for carers and psychological management are each provided with a chapter—useful guidelines for those in charge of Medicine for the Elderly. It is a pity that they fail to deprecate colleagues whose attitudes or inertia have permitted the breakdown of essential hospital services throughout the UK: "psychogeriatric" wards and whole hospitals (often the only ones in the Health Authorities area) are daily being closed. Virgil's Eclogue was prophetic: "*Quem fugis, a, demens? Habitarunt di quoque sivas.*" (From whom do you flee, madman? Even Gods have lived in the woods.) Trendy Community care has sadly proved a wholly inadequate alternative as many families and patients can testify.

My only real criticism of this nicely produced book is the need for a stricter editorial red pencil to remove several areas of unnecessary repetition. Most of the material covered can be found in similar recent texts, but the compilation can be strongly recommended to physicians and should be of particular help to geriatricians. Those seeking more erudite information and reference sources will consult the recent issue of the British Medical Bulletin devoted to Alzheimer's disease.

JMS PEARCE

Multiple Sclerosis: A Guide for Patients and their Families 2nd. Edited by Labe C Scheinberg & Nancy J Holland. (Pp 288; \$14.00 p/b; \$22.50 cloth). New York: Raven Press, 1987.

This is the second edition of a book aimed at

the patient suffering from multiple sclerosis. Sylvia Lawry, in her preface, describes the book as one intended as a guide for the patient and Dr Scheinberg, in his introduction, hopes that his book will be read by both patients and members of the family either at initial diagnosis or at other times in the course of the illness. He hopes it will allow a better understanding of the disorder and a better understanding of the various symptoms and vicissitudes which will befall the patient.

The book begins with a chapter on epidemiology. A consideration of the genetic factors and factors involved in the pathogenesis of the disease follows and then a chapter on the simple neuropathology of the disease and the immune system. A very useful chapter on diagnosis comes from Charles Poser, including the value of MRI. The general management of the patient is discussed in a series of chapters, both fully and sympathetically and these realistic chapters are the most valuable in the book.

The impression given by this book is that the patient with multiple sclerosis, certainly on the American continent, will require to have a very high IQ, be highly educated and very well informed to be able properly to comprehend the text which is essentially medical and assumes considerable knowledge of anatomy, physiology and medical terminology. Such statements as: "as in any chronic unpredictable illness there are frequently tertiary symptoms in the psychological and vocational areas" will require explanation for most victims and patients would find difficulty in appreciating the following: "It appears to have a specific suppressant action on the lymphocyte subpopulation that augments the immune response of other lymphocytes", in a reference to immunosuppressive therapy.

I feel, therefore, that further editions would benefit from a glossary of terms and a note or two of explanation of the essential medical matters discussed.

The dietetic advice is sensible and the chapter on physiotherapy and surgical therapy is equally so. A useful chapter is devoted to nursing care where the value of exercise is considered and attention is given to the various symptoms of the disease and especially skin protection, pressure sores and contractures. There is a separate chapter on the management of bowel and bladder problems and, again, this will prove very useful indeed given the patient's capability of understanding the text.

There is a useful review of the possible new treatments in this disease and an explanation of the requirement for clinical trials and the type of trials that have been undertaken.

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taken. A useful table explains what further trials are underway.

Thus the general emphasis throughout the book is one of encouragement and support with a general air of optimism, and I think this is the book's greatest value. Thus with a slight criticism of its perhaps being beyond the comprehension of many sufferers in the United Kingdom, it can be recommended certainly to those responsible for the ongoing care of those with multiple sclerosis.

JB FOSTER

Pharmacology of Cerebral Ischemia. Edited by J Kriegstein. (Pp 450; \$111.00.) Amsterdam: Elsevier Science Publishers, 1987.

This book on the pharmacology of cerebral ischaemia is a report of the proceedings of an international symposium held in the middle of 1986. It has therefore been published very rapidly and as such will be a reference book of interest to researchers in the field as the participants represented the main areas of scientific advance in the study of this subject. The book is interestingly produced in that there is a short initial section entitled *Pathophysiology*, which serves as a basic introduction to the main concepts which are treated in two further main sections entitled *Methods* and *Pharmacology and Therapy*, which represent overviews of research programmes and practical approaches to solving some of the problems posed in cerebral ischaemia. The final section entitled *Poster Sessions* represents a series of extended abstracts describing work in progress.

The speed of publication has meant that there have had to be compromises in editing. The book is produced in the well known camera ready format and clearly there is therefore little control over the standard of English, spelling and typographical errors. Though irritating, these do not detract from the messages of the book.

A certain degree of knowledge of the field will be required to read it critically and it is hardly suitable for the tyro. The referencing, particularly in the review chapters, is disappointingly partisan. Siejso's book *Brain Energy Metabolism* with its chapters on cerebral ischaemia is a much better introduction but the references are out of date. I think the book would be a useful addition to the library of laboratories in the field and for reference in specialised neuroscience institutes.

R FRACKOWIAK

Stroke: A Clinical Approach. By Louis R Caplan and Robert W Stein. (Pp 343; £40.000.) Guildford: Butterworth Scientific Ltd, 1986.

The anomaly of stroke management in most British institutions is that patients are looked after by non-neurologists; the same is true in some other countries. This book is intended for those doctors who have to care for stroke patients. It is not intended for the expert on cerebrovascular disease.

The whole topic is well covered by two neurologists with a wide clinical experience of the subject. They provide a very down-to-earth, sensible approach without any important idiosyncrasies. By reading this work, the tyro will glean considerable knowledge and wisdom about stroke illness; for example when discussing the place of cardiac investigations, they say that "the question is not whether to look at the heart, but how thoroughly". The text is punctuated in places by case reports, most of them very helpful and relevant, but a few were not. Their CT scans and PET scans are drawings rather than photographs, presumably to cut costs. This may irritate some readers.

The section on rehabilitation is rather short, which is consistent with the interest in the subject among most physicians! They rightly discuss the emotional danger of an exaggerated emphasis on physical therapy where patients are encouraged to strive for the return of normal function when it would be more appropriate to adapt to their deficit.

The references are well chosen, up-to-date and readily accessible. This will prove to be most useful to the non-specialist.

DJ THOMAS

Cerebral Lateralization: Biological Mechanisms, Associations and Pathology. By Norman Geschwind and Albert M Galaburda. (Pp 304; £29.95.) London: MIT Press, 1986.

Despite its cumbersome title this book is both readable and enjoyable. For the reader without specialised knowledge, the ideas are presented clearly and vigorously and the most controversial interpretations seem to be models of logic. One can easily settle back and read through this book consecutively, buoyed up by Geschwind's enthusiasm.

One may too readily accept conventional practices and beliefs, particularly in the par-

tially charted field of behavioural psychology; right-handedness for writing has been equated with left hemisphere dominance. Geschwind, with his meticulous nature and his precisely recorded examination of the nervous system showed that accepted beliefs were too simplistic and tended to defeat any progress in our understanding of higher cerebral function and lateralisation. Having discarded unproven assumptions he showed that one hemisphere had a major role for some activities, while the other hemisphere was of preeminence for different functions. Dominance became a discredited term.

Geschwind had a magpie-like acquisitiveness for esoteric detail and these are woven into the texture of his book. Equally there are generous tributes to the assistance given by his friends and colleagues. Thirty years ago Geschwind drew attention to the asymmetry of the structure of the two hemispheres and here he discusses the various factors, genetic, hormonal and chemical which may influence this development. He then relates anomalies of the normal asymmetric development of the brain to various disorders of cerebral functions such as dyslexia. He associates left-handedness with certain immune disorders and predisposition to particular illnesses in later life. Furthermore, left-handedness which is generally regarded as a disability is shown to be associated with certain artistic and sporting talents.

This book is the work of an enthusiast; it glows with his infectious, headlong excitement, it bristles with provocative suggestions and is occasionally betrayed by its impetuosity.

It is a tribute to Dr Galaburda that two distinct hands are not easily identifiable in the presentation of this material.

IT DRAPER

Degenerative Neurological Disease in the Elderly. Edited by RA Griffiths and ST McCarthy. (Pp 206; £27.50) Bristol: Wright, 1987.

This is an account of the proceedings of a conference held in 1985 and encompasses the contribution of 29 authors in 21 chapters within 199 pages—a veritable model of succinctness for which the editors must be congratulated. Despite these constraints the diversity of topics is extraordinarily wide, embracing epidemiology, genetics, neurochemistry, neuropathology, and molecular biology and hierarchically ascends from the peripheral provinces of neuromuscular dis-