meeting are all from Scandinavia so that the volume could fairly be considered to represent the modern Scandinavian view of epilepsy. Some of the papers are extremely short, for example that on neuropathology takes up less than three pages of script, but some are much more thorough in their consideration of their subject; for example, a comprehensive epilepsy service from the National Centre, Sandvika, Norway is discussed in 19 pages. Perhaps for the clinician, the most useful papers are those concerned with neuroimaging and PET, the differential diagnosis of epilepsy, and the chapter on drug therapy with its inevitable algorithm. A useful chapter on epilepsy in pregnancy is followed by a discussion of monotherapy as against polytherapy and a discussion of eventual withdrawal of antiepileptic drug treatment. Status epilepticus is briefly reviewed and some of the newer anti-convulsant drugs are described.

The overall impression given to this reviewer, is that there is nothing much new in the field of epilepsy which has not already appeared in the journals or has not already been reviewed in leading articles in the major medical journals. As far as the production is concerned, the volume is attractive, the printing is excellent, there is a comprehensive index but at £37 I think these proceedings will be of little interest except to those who attended the symposium and no doubt they already have their abstracts.

JB FOSTER

Eye Movement Disorders. Edited by E A C M Sanders, R J W de Keizer, D S Zee. (Pp 280; £79.90.) Dordrecht: Martinus Nijhoff, 1987.

A great deal is known about the neural mechanisms controlling movements of the eyes and, with the advent of powerful imaging techniques, clinico-pathological correlation and understanding of disorders of eye movements has advanced rapidly. This book is derived from a two-day course on the topic held in the Netherlands in 1986. One might be forgiven for suspecting that it was another camera-ready publication of the proceedings of a conference but that is not the case. There is full coverage of the anatomy and physiology of the oculomotor system, the techniques of clinical examination of eye movements, the interpretation of diplopia, nystagmus and oculomotor palsies and even some discussion of treatment.

Each chapter is a comprehensive review of the topic and the authors are widely drawn from ophthalmology, neurology, and a range of other appropriate disciplines. The majority of the faculty who gave this course come from the Netherlands and are experts in their fields. There are many informative illustrations and each chapter is well-referenced. Overall, the volume will provide a useful introduction to this field of neuro-ophthalmology.

CD MARSDEN

Neurotrauma: Treatment, Rehabilitation and Related Issues Vol 1. Edited by Michael E Miner and Karen A Wagner. (Pp 304; £55.00.) Sevenoaks: Butterworths, 1986.

This book reports the first Houston Conference on Neurotrauma, a series convened with the ambitious aim of covering "the entire spectrum of the study and management of head injury". Inevitably this conference made use of local interests and strengths and this doubtless accounts for the rather strange mixture of topics. Their allocation between the headings of acute treatment, evoked responses and rehabilitation/outcome also seems odd in some cases. Surely papers on post-traumatic amnesia and on post-traumatic epilepsy belong under outcome rather than acute treatment, as does that on evoked potentials in rehabilitation? The chapter on prevention rests uneasily in the section on rehabilitation!

There are two interesting general contributions to begin the book. One is from an epidemiologist, on the "Demography of Head Injuries in the USA;" and the other from a professor of ethics, on "decisions to Treat the Severely Injured." These are both well referenced and are perhaps the most original contributions in this book. They each deal with an issue of general interest and they should be widely read.

The next four chapters deal with the pathophysiology of cardiopulmonary changes, cerebral oxygen delivery, intracranial hypertension and metabolic responses associated with severe head injuries. These provide a local view of issues that have been dealt with in numerous conferences and books in the last decade. The last two chapters in this section are on post-traumatic amnesia and post-traumatic epilepsy. That on PTA explores the relationship between the duration of coma and of PTA. The concept of PTA as an index of severity was proposed by Ritchie

Russell in Britain more than 50 years ago but in America it has not been widely used except for reporting military injuries from Korea and Vietnam. It is therefore good to see it being adopted in the civilian context. However, the Texas workers have introduced a new concept—of PTA beginning only when the patient emerges from coma. This makes the Texas figures incompatible with those used by everyone else so far. But it also detracts from the unique advantage of the PTA, that it does not depend upon any documentation or data about the patient in the acute stage when emerging from coma. Instead it can be assessed by speaking to the patient even months or years later.

The two chapters by the same authors on evoked responses—in the Intensive Care Unit and on the diagnosis of brain death—consist largely of a collection of case reports. Evoked responses are not widely used either in the acute stage or during rehabilitation in most places, and these contributions are therefore of limited interest. The account of rehabilitation is an interesting review of another topic that has provoked a cascade of contributions from various places in the last decade.

Putting together a good conference and writing a good book are different exercises. There are increasing numbers of speakers who are unhappy about their contributions being preserved between hard covers and some scepticism about the value of conference reports other than as aide-memoires to those who were actually at the conference.

BRYAN JENNETT

Role of Drug Treatment for Eating Disorders. (*Brunner/Mazel Eating Disorders Monograph Series.*) Edited by Paul Garfinkel & David M Garner. (Pp 180; \$27.50.) New York: Brunner/Mazel. Distributor: Raven Press, 1987.

Articles written five years ago describing drug treatment of anorexia nervosa ended on a pessimistic note, concluding that pharmacotherapy added little, if any benefit, to skilled nursing management and psychotherapy. But here we have a book of nine chapters each of which reviews the theoretical premises and empirical evidence for the efficacy of a wide variety of pharmacological agents. This change in emphasis has occurred because of an assimilation of knowledge from the basic sciences and from parallels drawn from other fields