knowledge at the time. Techniques of testing are then described and the concepts illustrated by the findings in his subjects. In this format Poppelreuter treats perimetric findings (i.e. elementary functions); apperceptive processes (underlying depth perception, colour perception, form perception, visual search, and filling-in); the higher level interpretation of visual images; personality; specific accounts of reading disturbances and optic apraxia; and last but not least in Poppelreuter's estimation, techniques of retraining. The appeal of this book goes far beyond those interested in the history of this area of neurology and psychology. For those interested in higher visual function there is much of current relevance, and many of Poppelreuter's observations demand to be pursued and interpreted in the context of modern neuro-imaging and our understanding of the organisation of the primate visual system. Workers in clinical neuropsychology and rehabilitation alike will derive concepts of practical value from Poppelreuter's approach. Indeed, if this were a new work published today, it would be greeted as a significant and timely contribution.

GORDON PLANT

Cerebral Sinus Thrombosis. Experimental and Clinical Aspects. Edited by K EINHAUPL, O KEMPSKI AND A BAETHMANN. (pp 234; Price \$69.50.) New York, Plenum Publishing Corp., 1991. ISBN 0 306 43832 1.

The stated purpose of this international symposium report from Germany is to stimulate interest in the neglected field of cerebral sinus thrombosis and especially to alert clinicians to the diagnosis. The first section deals with pathology including experimental studies. The second section extends widely into mechanisms of brain damage including cerebral blood flow, smooth muscle reactivity and ischaemic cell damage, all of which are well written.

The clinical section is introduced by Henry Barnett with a historical review. There follows a very thorough account of the signs and symptoms which may be encountered together with the differential diagnosis. Despite the detailed account there remains the impression that the diagnosis is difficult; perhaps the most important message is the need to keep it in mind. The chapter on investigation comes down firmly in favour of angiography though indicating this is likely to be superseded by MRI which has the advantage of showing associated parenchymal changes. Stress is laid on the need for the angiography to be of high quality, four-vessel, with an extensive venous phase in two planes.

The chapter on treatment deals with the controversial question on whether to use heparin and reports a small placebo controlled trial which was stopped after 22 subjects because the heparin treated group were faring so much better. Unfortunately insufficient detail is given to enable one to judge the quality of the trial but clearly the authors favour the use of heparin and consider the risk of haemorrhage to be small. This book is a useful contribution to a neglected field.

JOHN MARSHALL

Uncommon Psychiatric Syndromes 3rd Edition. By DAVID ENOCH AND WM TRETHOWAN. (Pp 269; Price £19.95.) Oxford, Butterworth-Heinemann, 1991. ISBN 0 7506 1400 5.

This unusual and successful volume presents the history, clinical features and discusses the aetiology of eleven unusual "fascinomata". The syndromes include: Capgras, De Clérambault (*psychose passionnelle*, or pure erotomania), Ganser, Othello, Munchausen, and Tourette as well as Cotard (*le délire de negation*), Folie à deux, Ekblom (delusional parasitosis, not restless legs), Couvade, and Possession states.

It is intended as a scholarly review and indeed it is discursive in its coverage. But it is evident that sadly, there remains a gulf between psychiatry and neurology in attitudes and concepts of aetiology in the several syndromes which bridge both specialities. Well written, and always entertaining by virtue of the topics considered, it yet fails to penetrate adequately the recent genetic and neurochemical data available in, for example, Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome. We learn that hysteria is the basis of the Ganser state in pure form. Munchausen's syndrome is characterised by pathological lying, masochistic self-destruction, yet compulsory admission and detention are seen as essential, and there is a need for prolonged supportive psychotherapy. The concept of malingering is largely dismissed, and the important but difficult borderline between illness and deliberate manipulations and deceptions receives perfunctory attention.

Good reference lists are marred by numerous inaccuracies and by omission of titles and last pages. Despite these pccadilloes it is an instructive and entertaining read.

JMS PEARCE

Huntington's Disease Vol. 22. Major Problems in Neurology Series. Edited by PETER S HARPER. (Pp 438; Price £45.00.) 1991. Sidcup, WB Saunders. ISBN 0 7020 1538 5.

This is an excellent book. It is readable, comprehensive, practical, and has a consistency of style indicating careful editing. All aspects of Huntington's Chorea are considered starting with a fascinating historical review, then ranging through clinical features and management follows a series of excellent chapters on genetic aspects and, in particular, practical advice on genetic counselling.

This book is written in a simple informative style. There is great sensitivity shown in the discussion of practical management of patients and families with the disease. The chapters on genetic counselling and predictive testing are models of clarity and useful advice in one of the most difficult of clinical situations. Although the identification of the Huntington's Disease gene is probably near, if not imminent, this book will remain an invaluable source of information and references for the neurologist long after this definitive discovery has been made. Peter Harper is to be congratulated on bringing together a team which probably has a unique experience of this disease. And, in this book the team have given us the fruits of 20 years' clinical experience and research.

It is strongly recommended for neurologists and clinical geneticists in training or in practice; and it should be available for reference in most medical libraries.

RB GODWIN-AUSTEN

Awareness of Deficit after Brain Injury: Clinical and Theoretical Issues. By G P PRIGATANO AND D L SCHACTER. (Pp 271; Price £45.00.) 1991. New York, Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-505941-7.

How can the patient who leaves all the food on the left of the plate have *neglect* when, from his perspective, there is no left side to neglect? How can someone with amnesia know they have a bad memory? This interesting book reviews the evidence relating to these and similar questions. It brings together discussion of a wide range of topics which cannot easily be found in more traditional neurology or psychology texts.

This edited, multi-author book covers an area of neurology that has received little attention (indeed, has been *neglected*). It does not restrict itself solely to unilateral neglect but covers many deficits such as memory loss and aphasia. The chapters include a stimulating mixture of both experimental findings and development of the theoretical framework of awareness. Lastly the book does not ignore the psychological (emotional) causes of unawareness of deficit or the more philosophical aspects of self-awareness.

Any neurologist who is closely involved in the continuing management of patients who have suffered a stroke or head injury should read this book. It will stimulate thought about the experience of our patients and will thereby help us understand their bizarre experiences.

DERICK T WADE

Radiation Injury to the Nervous System. Edited by P H GUTIN, S A LEIBEL AND G E SHELLINE. (Pp 482; Price \$162.50.) New York, Raven Press. 1991. ISBN 0-88167-760-4.

The first edition of this book (*Radiation Damage to the Nervous System*, 1980) was a seminal reference work throughout the 1980's and upon opening this new volume it surprised me that there was no reference to the previous edition. This current work is longer (482 pages) and has a broader appeal. The first 90 pages represent a synopsis of modern radiobiological thinking and serve as a good introduction to the following chapters reviewing the brain radiation tolerance data from small and large animal work. I was pleased to see the problems of retreatment data and volume effect data (two particularly problematic areas) tackled in these reviews. The next section details clinical and human data with chapters on pathology, diagnostic imaging of radiation injury and management of radiation necrosis.

I was very pleased indeed to find whole chapters devoted to the radiation tolerance of optic and hypothalmo-pituitary pathways—particularly important areas, and so much better understood than ten years ago.

Similarly, late neuropsychological sequelae are covered comprehensively by authorities. The references to these reviews are also very useful.

Effects of high LET radiation and hyperthermia are covered in special chapters and interactions with drugs and possibilities of radioprotection are important additions to this edition.

Radiotherapy remains vital to modern treatment and our job must be to harness it safely and use it to maximum benefit. I was very impressed by the breadth and quality of this book and it is to be highly recommended for every neuro-oncology unit.

PN PLOWMAN

Women and Epilepsy. Edited by M R TRIMBLE. (Pp 285; Price: £40.00). 1991. Chichester, John Wiley & Sons. ISBN 0-471-92998-0

Is there a difference between men and women? In a first class chapter by Upton, Thompson and Corcoran, the authors quote Ivy Compton Burnett: "there are probably more differences within the sexes than between them". Why then has this book been produced? The best quote in this book is on page 207: In 1914 a German psychologist stated that the average female is capricious, over-suggestible, often inclined to exaggeration, is disinclined to abstract thought, unfit for mathematical reasoning, impulsive and over-emotional. Many would agree with this only insofar as it applies to certain feminist works. This excellent book puts paid to such superficial judgement. Does it add to our knowledge of epilepsy and the management of people with epilepsy, particularly women with epilepsy?

The book emerged, from a meeting of the same title. The book adds to our knowledge of epilepsy and to ideas about management. The editor has chosen a multi-disciplinary team of authors but unfortunately the provenance is not always clear. It is not necessary to know the speciality of the authors but it would be helpful and interesting. Although most of the authors are well-known to the potential readership in this country, this is not necessarily the case abroad and this book deserves to be read in all countries.

The first section includes chapters on the quality of life in women with epilepsy, and counselling women towards independence. The second section deals with sex differences in epilepsy from the epidemiological aspect, developmental and behavioural differences between the sexes, the adolescent female with epilepsy, and the epileptic syndromes of childhood and adolescence. The third section deals with anticonvulsant drugs, hormones and seizure threshold, contraception, epilepsy and pharmacokinetics, catamenial seizures and pregnancy and teratogenesis. The last part deals with sex, sexual seizures and the female with epilepsy, cognitive differences between the sexes, depression and epilepsy, and pseudo seizures. Each section is followed by discussion sessions. The final chapter is a most entertaining chapter by the editor on famous and not so famous women with epilepsy.

It is not easy to find any real criticisms in a book like this which contains so much useful

and practical information about epilepsy. My main criticism is that the title of the book may mean that it is regarded by a potential reader in too narrow a way and some first class information will, therefore, be overlooked. For example, the chapter on pseudo seizures is one of the best short reviews on this difficult subject but it is a review which is applicable to epilepsy rather than women and epilepsy. The majority of the work discussed in the book seems to have nothing to do with women as women, but everything to do with people (male and female) with epilepsy. However, several of the chapters are not really so single sex orientated. All the approaches have the single aim of enhancing independence, again equally applicable to both sexes and of great practical importance. The epidemiological studies show a higher prevalence in men than in women and this is particularly seen in childhood. As regards the reproductive cycle, there is no evidence that pregnancy is likely to start epilepsy; puberty in girls could either be associated with an increase or a decrease in fits or they could remain unchanged, and in pregnancy there is a similar distribution of change or lack of change. Again in developmental and behavioural differences between the sexes there is evidence of an excess attack rate in males.

The book is so full of good writing, contains so much useful reference work, and has such good practical advice that it would be a pity if the title suggests that the contents are too restricted. However, this must be seen as a quibble. The book is good, sensibly priced, well produced and strongly recommended.

LS ILLIS

Comprehensive Management of Spina Bifida. By HAROLD L REKATE. (Pp 248; Price £62.00). 1991. London, Wolfe Publishing Ltd. ISBN 0-8493-0151-3

The author of this book is Chief of Paediatric Neurosurgery at Phoenix, Arizona, where presumably there is enough continuing experience with spina bifida to justify the publication. Certainly the two chapters by Dr ReKate himself emphasise well established details of clinical examination and surgical technique which became standard neurosurgical practice many years ago when the condition was of frequent occurrence. No-one with detailed knowledge of the gross dysplasia in the open myelohomocyst lesion would endeavour to reform the neural tube with any expectation of improving neurological function of the lower limbs but most neurosurgeons will have found it the natural precedent to the important dural closure. The neurosurgical chapter on Management of the Newborn with Spina Bifida is first in the book, and as such, pre-empted the very good accounts of the embryology and pathology contributed by other authors in chapters II and IV. Again it should be said that the majority of the varied pathology of the neuraxis in this condition has already been accounted for in the English literature, but the inclusion of the use of the MRI scanner and the place of hydromyelia are important additions. The main author contributes a further neurosurgical chapter which includes specific views of shunt dependency and the assessment of the older child with spina bifida newly presenting for care, both of which must reflect a particular and personal current practice.

The contributed chapters on the orthopaedic and urological management of the condition are comprehensive and there is a very useful chapter on the use of orthotics in its treatment.

The last chapter on the longterm psychosocial adjustment of children with spina bifida elicits chords of sympathy from this country where the therapeutic activity of some 20 years ago has resulted in a particular group of relatively young, disabled patients for whom the community has no comfortable place. In a country where spina bifida now occurs only rarely, as the result of thorough prophylaxis and antenatal diagnosis and termination, it is a measure of good fortune that this little book reads like an echo from the past.

GORDON BROCKLEHURST

MRI of Musculoskeletal System. (The Raven MRI Teaching File). Edited by JOHN V CRUES III. (Pp 247; Price Not Indicated.) 1991. New York, Raven Press. ISBN 0-88-1167-705-1.

This book forms part of a series of MRI Teaching Files and is based on the concept of demonstrating the MRI abnormalities in one hundred cases per volume. The complete set is based on one thousand cases.

This volume covers the musculoskeletal system and is mainly devoted to joint disease. The MR images are taken from numerous different machines at different field strengths and thus the quality of the images varies considerably. The section on muscle disorders deals with pyomyositis and muscle haematomas only, and it is disappointing that there is no illustration of the changes occurring in inflammatory, inherited and metabolic myopathies.

The section on the peripheral nerves is of interest in that it demonstrates the ability of MR scanning to identify carpal syndrome and ulnar nerve lesions and thus highlights the benefit of this technique in patients where there is strong clinical suspicion or equivocal or unhelpful neurophysiological results. The ability of MR scanning to identify Morton's neuroma is beautifully illustrated. Although the case report approach is attractive this book could not be recommended for the Departmental Library and would be much better served by more traditional MRI Atlas.

WJK CUMMING

SHORT NOTICE

Neurosurgical Operative Atlas. AANS Publications Committee. Vol 1. No 1-6. By S S RENGACHARY AND R H WILKINS. Bimonthly/approx 80 pages per issue/looseleaf. Price not indicated. 1991. London, Williams & Wilkins Ltd. ISBN-0-683-07233-1.