surgeons, and 20% neurosurgeons. The preponderance of information is orthopaedic but the book covers the overlap between neurosurgery of the spine and orthopaedics as their fields merge and techniques increase in complexity and number.

It contains a vast amount of information, 90% of which has been revised and updated. Finding what you want can be difficult. Greater coordination between authors would help to eliminate much duplication.

Neck fusion (anterior and posterior) and lumbar intertransverse fusion are each fully described in two separate chapters. Cervical myelopathy is discussed in two chapters and information about the fate of osteophytes is contradictory.

In the chapter on lumbar disc disease is a table labelled "Epidemiology of risk factors for low back pain". If "risk factors" are *causes* for back pain then it cannot be agreed that physical fitness causes back pain nor do any of the seven items headed "Psychosocial". If the author does not differentiate between back pain and "Complaints of back pain" he should say so, otherwise this table is a malingers' charter and will swell the growth of "Problem back clinics". On page 678 there is a frightening account of the effects of failed surgery between 1940 and 1944 largely due to avoidable errors, e.g. wrong levels, too many levels, and litigation. Chapter 48 has the comment "It has been clearly demonstrated that patients with profound emotional disturbance, or involved in litigation, do not derive observable benefit from additional surgery". One should seriously question the remark in chapter 15 that "If back pain persists beyond three to six months it has become the disease and does not simply imply ongoing tissue damage".

In the United Kingdom we are under considerable threat of litigation for use of Iophendylate (Myodil or Pantopaque) after the mid 1970s. It was surprising to see this substance mentioned by two authors without appropriate warning. Some chapters are rather heavily laden with "Illustrative cases". Some have a follow up of only eight months.

Ten pages on congenital anomalies of the odontoid and sixteen pages of Klippel-Feil are generous. There is no need in this book to tell surgeons to remove sponges before closing the wound, nor to show an illustration of a closed wound. The value of magnetic imaging and other scanning techniques are well demonstrated and described.

Winter and Lonstein give a masterly survey of scoliosis giving the prevalence, diagnosis and description of the surgical techniques now available. They do not mention the lordotic element associated with all or virtually all idiopathic scoliosis.

This is a reference book of great importance to orthopaedic and neurosurgeons.

CR BERKIN

Epilepsy Surgery. Edited by HANS OTTO LÜDERS (Pp 854; Price: \$162.50) 1992. New York, Raven Press. ISBN 0 88167 821 X.

This book has been produced in conjunction with the 2nd International Cleveland Clinic Epilepsy Symposium held in June 1990. However, the topics were assigned, and most

of the text was written before the meeting was held.

It is the first major work to deal with all aspects of the surgical treatment of epilepsy since a similar publication from the Palm Desert Epilepsy Symposium, also by Raven Press, in 1987. There are 17 sections dealing with different aspects of this wide and complicated topic. Each section has chapters by knowledgeable and distinguished authors drawn from the active centres of epilepsy surgery all over the world.

As well as chapters dealing with the important but common topics of epileptic syndromes, neurophysiological evaluation, brain imaging and so forth, there are also chapters dealing with conceptual and ethical considerations, economic aspects and scholarly historical essays. Review chapters covering growing areas in research, for example neuronal grafts, are also included.

Dr Lüders is to be congratulated on the composition of this book and on the high standard he has exacted from the individual contributors. The book itself is robust and well produced with excellent illustrations. It is undoubtedly the best reference book for the surgical treatment of epilepsy currently available, and at a very reasonable price.

C POLKEY

Principles of Drug Therapy in Neurology (Contemporary Neurology Series). Edited by MV JOHNSTON, RL MACDONALD and ANNE B YOUNG (Pp 358; Price: not indicated). Philadelphia, FA Davis Co. 1992. ISBN 0-8036-5031-0.

The charge of therapeutic nihilism was levelled at Neurology in the days when the popular image of a neurologist was a man obsessed with the minutiae of physical examination and the diagnosis of esoteric and untreatable diseases. Nowadays, with advances in treatment of epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, migraine etc., and the growing involvement of neurologists in the management of stroke and in rehabilitation, the lunch-time banter from colleagues has moderated. Neurology must now be near the top of the Norrington table of therapeutic options.

This textbook of Neuropharmacology emphasises the scientific basis of drug use and its relationship to disease processes. It begins with a lengthy chapter on Fundamentals of drug therapy followed by chapters on Movement disorders, Seizure disorders and Epilepsy, Stroke and Hypoxic-ischaemic disorders, Immune-mediated disorders, Psychiatric disorders, Cognitive disorders, Pain, and Acute drug intoxication. Each chapter deals with the clinical manifestations, the neurochemical and anatomical pathology, and the approach to therapy.

The account is comprehensive, clearly explained, and with a proper emphasis on practical applications, but the balance is sometimes uneven. The chapter on psychiatry could have been omitted, and that on cognitive disorders could have been pruned, as it deals largely with the theoretical aspects of Alzheimer's disease that can be found elsewhere and the approach to therapy is speculative. The chapter on epilepsy devotes

four pages to the effects of anticonvulsant drugs on sodium and calcium channels and nearly four pages to enhancement of GABA-ergic inhibition, whilst dealing with the clinical use of anticonvulsant drugs for chronic therapy in just over six pages. In the same chapter there are some differences between USA and UK current practice in the management of status epilepticus. For first line treatment, the authors prefer Lorazepam to Diazepam (and no mention is made of Diazemuls). There is a preference for Phenytoin as second line treatment if Diazepam and Phenytoin fail, and Chlormethiazole is not mentioned.

These criticisms should not detract from the overall value of a useful, up-to-date, beautifully produced book. It will be of value to established neurologists and to those in training, and is a book to buy and use - not simply to consult in a library. There is as yet (unfortunately) no British equivalent. The Butterworth series should repair this deficiency.

E NIEMAN

Headache and Depression: Serotonin Pathways as a Common Clue. Edited by G NAPPI, G BONO, G SANDRINI, E MARTIGNONI and G MICIELI (Pp 329; Price: \$162.50). 1992. New York, Raven Press, ISBN 0-88167-861-9.

This book has the smell of a conference about it. Yet nowhere is this stated; in fact on the back of the title page the publishers state "The material contained in this volume was submitted as previously unpublished material, except in the instances in which credit has been given to the source from which some of the illustrative material was derived." However, the cat is let out of the bag on p.109 where the contributors begin their chapter with "As this Conference on Headache and Depression demonstrates..." Only then did "Selected Communications" on p.vii in the Contents make sense. I find this disquieting and feel greater frankness is expected from the publishers and editors. In my assessment 11 chapters are reviews and 20 contain varying amounts of original material.

The book is divided into 6 sections. The first on neurochemistry of 5-HT pathways contains a succinct review of 5HT receptor pathways recognised at the time, and under "The Future" mentions 5-HT₄ with recent studies dated 1988. Another excellent contribution deals with 5-HT receptor subtypes in human superficial temporal, middle meningeal and pial arteries.

The second section deals with chronic headaches and mood disorders.

The next two sections are devoted to periodicity of affective and headache disorders: the first includes an excellent review of the evidence for hypothalamic involvement in cluster headache by Ekblom and colleagues; the second takes menstrually related complaints as a model of periodicity and contains a considerable amount of data on mood, headache and pharmacological aspects of the premenstrual syndrome.

A section on drugs affecting the serotonergic system has 3 drug trials and 3 reviews and, finally, Selected Communications contain an interesting follow-up study