Companion to Psychiatric Studies/Fifth Edition. Edited by RE KENDELL and AK ZEALLEY. (Pp 955 Illustrated; Price: £69.50 H/bk). 1993. Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone. ISBN 0-443-04668-9.

This text, the Scottish psychiatric bible, is now into its fifth edition since it was first published in 1973. The production of a new edition every five years or so attests to its popularity.

It espouses a comprehensiveness which is not aimed for by other post-graduate textbooks. There are chapters on social sciences and on psychology in relation to psychiatry. Functional neuroanatomy, neuropharmacology, neuroendocrinology and neurochemistry are covered. Once we reach psychiatry itself the coverage is again comprehensive with chapters on child psychiatry, adolescent psychiatry, mental retardation, old age psychiatry and forensic psychiatry. The various treatment approaches are also all given their own chapters. The book contains forty two chapters written by forty contributors and could bear the title "All you need to know about.....".

It is up to date, and makes use of ICD 10 and DSM 111R classifications. It has been well edited and there is remarkably little repetition considering the wide cover and the number of contributors. Despite its length, it is easy to handle, legible and for the most part, easy to read. Any student who has devoured the Companion and can regurgitate most of its information will sail through the membership examination of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Its flaw, to my mind, stems from the attempt to be so comprehensive. Some of the chapters and parts of chapters on the sciences basic to psychiatry are very condensed and one gets the feel of a hectic whistlestop tour of a topic which might detract from a broad understanding. Something of the "it's Tuesday, it must be Brussels" syndrome. On the other hand it also contains some outstanding sections. The chapter on old age psychiatry conveyed the author's enthusiasm and an understanding of the skills needed for that discipline, over and above those deployed by general adult psychiatrists. Dependency on alcohol and drugs and child psychiatry are also discussed with impressive clarity.

I enjoyed reading this book but, I felt that the search for comprehensiveness detracted a little from its overall value. Having everything between two covers is however very attractive to examination takers and I have no doubt that it will continue, quite rightly, to be a popular text with a sixth edition needed before the millennium arrives.

CM TONKS

Sleep and breathing. 2nd Edition Revised and Expanded (Lung Biology in Health and Disease Series/71). Edited by NA SAUNDERS and CE SULLIVAN (Pp 959 Illustrated; Price: \$195.00 H/bk) 1993 New York, Marcel Dekker Inc. ISBN 0 8247 8877 X

Henri Gastaut recognised the sleep apnoea syndrome in a laboratory in Marseilles in 1966. Since then there has been an ever increasing interest in sleep, breathing and oxygenation in a wide variety of illness and obstructive apnoea has been recognised as

amongst the commonest of disorders in adult males. Highly effective treatment has been developed over the last 10 years, spearheaded by the editors of this book. The impact of one major symptom of sleep apnoea—daytime sleepiness—after many years of neglect is being taken seriously.

This book is mainly about sleep apnoea and snoring. There are 57 contributors, 33 from North America and 12 from Australia with a single but outstanding contribution from the UK, from Neil Douglas in Edinburgh. The book is divided into 3 main sections, on the biology of sleeping and breathing, on sleep apnoea, and on other respiratory problems during sleep. The overall coverage is authoritative with a physiological bias. The language is one of mechanics, pressures, reflexes, chemoreceptors, neuronal pools and haemodynamic sequelae. The factual presentation is broad, ranging from the high prevalence of sleep apnoea amongst Polynesians and South Pacific islanders, to the necessity for continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) titration following the usual consumption of alcohol—otherwise the pressure required will be under-estimated. There is an excellent and critical review of the pharmacological treatment of sleep apnoea. However central to the book is the development of nasal CPAP and the extension of nasal ventilation to many of the respiratory problems of neuromuscular disease and scoliosis.

Relationships between apnoea, snoring, systemic hypertension, dementia, sudden cot death and atherosclerosis are highlighted—can the mechanical stimulus of snoring ever dislodge a thrombus from an arterial wall and be responsible for a stroke? The obvious question as to whether treatment for sleep apnoea can ameliorate dementia or slow its progression remains unanswered but the involvement of the frontal lobe in apnoea mechanisms is reviewed in depth.

How valuable is this book to neurologists and psychiatrists? Many of the chapters, particularly that of the combined physiotherapist-physician team of Piper and Sullivan, on respiratory problems in neuromuscular disease, concern mainstream topics including dementia, stroke, alertness and behaviour. The coverage of myasthenia and respiratory problems in the Guillain-Barré syndrome are somewhat sketchy. There is little practical guide to some of the difficult issues of the use of CPAP techniques in neuropsychiatric illness, for example in patients with sleep apnoea who also have schizophrenia, learning difficulty or behavioural problems.

The book is well produced, well edited and has excellent illustrations with not too many lists of sleep variables. The chapter standard is uniformly high but a somewhat curious feature is a 70 page index to every reference in the book listing page numbers of even 7th authors. There is some occasional topic overlap but this is probably unavoidable in a multi-authored work as big as this. The book is essential reading for all members of a modern respiratory unit. I hope the authors are already working on the third edition.

DAVID PARKES

The Management of Alzheimer's Disease. Edited by GORDON K WILCOCK. (Pp 220 Illustrated; Price: £38.00). 1993.

Stroud, Wrightson Biomedical Publishing Ltd. ISBN 1-871816-20-3.

Someone arriving on earth from Mars and seeing the explosion of publications on Alzheimer's disease could be forgiven for thinking that this represented a linear advance in all aspects of the disorder. Whilst staggering advances have been made in the molecular mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease (the editor of this book has played a large part in this) other aspects of Alzheimer's disease have not attracted the same attention. This book addresses some of these areas and is devoted to the management of the disorder, although only one of the five sections is exclusively concerned with this.

The usual subjects are dealt with by the usual skilled authors but it is refreshing to see some new names writing about established subjects. The influence of the pharmaceutical industry is clearly reflected by the interesting contributions on drug trials and clinical research and some original data on Velnacrine creeps into the penultimate chapter. Nuggets include a contribution from Harry Cayton, Director of the Alzheimer's Disease Society and the political context of Alzheimer's disease by Thomas Delaney. Future research is in safe hands with an overview by Gordon Wilcock. All in all, the jigsaw is pieced together under five sections—the scale of the problem, assessment and diagnosis, management, the social impact of Alzheimer's disease and current research and prospects for new treatment strategies. Wrightson Biomedical Publishing have done their usual excellent job. This text contributes significantly to the swelling ranks of books on the subject.

ALISTAIR BURNS

Surgery of the Cranial Nerves of the Posterior Fossa. (Neurosurgical Topics Series/13). Edited by DL BARROW. Pp 322 Illustrated; Price: \$80—AANS members, \$90—non-members, \$70—AANS residents. 1993, Park Ridge, Illinois, The American Association of Neurological Surgeons. ISBN 1-879284-02-2.

This volume is one of six in the Neurosurgical Topics series planned for publication by the AANS during 1993. There are also 12 previous issues in the series. The sixteen contributors to the present book are well established authorities in the field of posterior fossa cranial nerve surgery.

The first chapter, amounting to one third of the book, is a detailed review of the microsurgical anatomy of the brainstem, cerebellum and posterior fossa vessels and nerves, by Dr A Rhoton. The quality of description and illustration here is exemplary, and the text includes several pieces of valuable technical advice on operative procedure, such as the need when dissecting the cochlear nerves to sweep the microdissector from medial to lateral only, so as to avoid traction on distal cochlear fibres. There are valuable reviews by Möller, Wilkins and Adams respectively, of physiological, microvascular and non-microvascular concepts of the cranial nerve dysfunction syndromes. Three chapters are devoted to posterior cranial nerve tumours, and seven to cranial nerve dysfunction syndromes in general, and in particular nerves.