rheoencephalography in headache subjects, and in both instances the authors conclude correctly that the role is small. The late Professor Ernest Wood wrote a helpful chapter on Neuroradiology, but few would agree with his recommendation for skull radiography, echoencephalography, thermography, and isotope encephalography as 'a routine'. Assessments of thermography by Wood and Friedman, and of EEG by Goldensohn are clear summaries of the limited application of these techniques.

The book makes interesting reading, though its chapters vary considerably in their calibre and relevance to the clinical problem. Subsequent volumes in this series would be improved by some sort of plan with which to relate the contents, some of which will be indispensable to the keen migraineur.

J. M. S. PEARCE

The Role of Bodily Feelings By P. Tyrer. (Pp. 125; illustrated; £6.50.) Oxford University Press: London. 1976.

This monograph gives a clear and concise account of a series of experiments on the effects of beta-adrenergic blockade on normal subjects (at rest and during induced anxiety), and on morbidly anxious psychiatric patients. For the clinician the results are clear: beta-blockers are effective only in morbidly anxious patients who somatise their complaints or have tremor palpitations. Dr Tyrer provides a useful review of adrenergic blockade and the clinical applications of beta-blockers in medicine, together with a discussion of the philosophical and psychological problems of relating bodily feelings and emotions. The book is a useful contribution to psychopharmacology, of interest to both clinicians and research workers.

I. M. INGRAM

Textbook of Epilepsy By J. P. Laidlaw and A. Richens. (Pp. 389; illustrated; £15.00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1976. This excellent book can and should be read in its entirety by trainee neurologists, while experienced ones will find many sections of considerable interest. The more scientific chapters deal with the neurology of epilepsy (Marsden), fits in childhood (Brown), clinical pharmacology and medical treatment (Richens), neurosurgery

(Richardson), neuropathology and pathophysiology (Meldrum), electroencephalography (Driver and McGillivray), and neuroradiology (Kendall). The impact of the disorder on the affected individual is dealt with compassionately by a general practitioner (Linnett), and the long-term problems in difficult cases are discussed by the Laidlaws. The complex interrelationships between epilepsy and mental function are covered by three psychiatrists (Betts, Merskey, and Pond). Many chapters include admirably summarised case histories illustrating difficult problems. Troupin's chapter warrants a special mention. It sets out to describe 'a logical approach to sequential changes' of anticonvulsants. While the scheme proposed may well be effective, the fact that it can be represented diagrammatically with lines and arrows does not thereby make it logical, and if Richen's assessment is correct, it is not based on established facts. It seems also more rigid than the allegedly inflexible schemes it decries. The spelling mistakes vary from the irritating (Huntigdon's Chorea) to the ludicrous (Denis Williams' appointment at St Osoyes Hospital, London—a saint unknown not only in Wales, but also, even after the recent mass canonisation of martyrs, in Africa). Some of the references in the text are not to be found in the lists. No doubt this will be remedied in the subsequent editions which will surely follow.

R. S. KOCEN

Language Communication and the Brain: a Neuropsychological Study By Marinsz Maruszewski. (Pp. 217; illustrated; DG60.) Mouton: The Hague. 1970. (Translated 1975.)

Although the publishers do not make it very clear, the author of this monograph was the professor of psychology in Warsaw, who died in 1973 at the early age of 41. His work was well-known to aphasiologists, especially in eastern Europe. We are presented here with no child's guide to disorders of language but to a man's work, for it is one of the most scholarly expositions in the literature. This is all the more striking because Professor Maruszewski was never a practising neurologist, and his access to patients was probably at second-hand. Be that as it may, he has shown himself to be conversant with his subject, and a thinker from whom much might have been expected had he lived.

To say that Slavonic writers are overgenerously quoted is no criticism—not by any means—for much of their work is of great value and unjustifiably neglected in the West. Hence the abundant references to Homskeya Kok, Konorski, Luria, Mityrowicz, Modzejewski, Tonkonogi, Tsvetkov, Vygotsky, among others, in this work considerably enhancing the value of the book to the unsophisticated.

The author steered his thought processes cautiously between the Scylla of compartmentation and the Charybdis of holism, being fair both to localisers and their opponents. There is much that is critical as well as interesting as to the status of the so-called Broca's area and the clinical consequences of its obliteration. The remarks he made upon dysarthria in aphasiacs are shrewd and he pointed out how often the articulatory errors are mirrored in the patient's attempts to write. The author assigned importance to two regions peripheral to the usual accepted zone of language. These are first the prefrontal lobe, which he believed was concerned with 'the ability for rapid switching of semantic content both in reception and production, the ability to detach from surface structure effects in speech reception, and the ability to regulate activity according to "own speech"'. The other area is what the writer called the parieto-temporo-occipital 'junction' (that is, the 'carrefour' of French neurologists). Maruszewski confessed the role of this area to be highly complex and still poorly understood. Primarily he associated this part of the brain with word selection in their semantic aspect, and with the encoding and decoding of complex logico-grammatical constructions.

What does all this mean? Pronouncements of this sort may well be deemed vague and prolix, representing the conquest of sound over sense. Whether such shortcomings should be ascribed to the author, or to the convolutions of the Polish language, or to the translator, is anyone's guess.

Nonetheless, the effort required to hack one's way through the verbal jungle, brings reward.

MACDONALD CRITCHLEY