

L'Enregistrement Electroencéphalographique, 2nd edition. By M. L. Hector. (Pp. 171; illustrated; F.140.) Masson: Paris. 1976.

This is the second edition of a justifiably popular French book providing an excellent basis for anyone wanting to learn exactly how to record reliable and useful EEGs. The many practical details that lead to the valuable clinical contribution of the first class EEG technician are described with clarity and wisdom. This book complements Cooper, Osselton, and Shaw's *EEG Technology* which gives greater emphasis to the scientific background.

Half the book is devoted to pithy accounts of all aspects of conduct of routine examinations and details of special procedures necessary, for example, in epilepsy, neurosurgical patients, monitoring during open heart surgery, the intensive care unit, premature babies, all-night sleep recordings, telemetry, and evoked potentials. A useful chapter describes artefacts systematically with details of cause, differential diagnosis, and cure. Eighty-five well reproduced and annotated plates of tracings follow, illustrating important technical points in demonstration of normality and pathological states. There is a proper emphasis on the value of polygraphic recording. One regrets the lack of balance between bipolar and reference recordings, and of details for further basic reading. Anglo-Saxon readers may have difficulty in correct interpretation of phrases like 'parasites extérieures'; an English translation would be useful.

PAMELA F. PRIOR

Thailand, Bombay, Philippines, Taiwan, Indonesia, and Korea. Multiple sclerosis does occur in Asia but rarely. The clinical picture is slightly different from the disease in the west. Twenty-three per cent of Asian cases had tonic spasms; the Devic type of the disease is much more common, and pathologically necrotic lesions in the optic nerves and spinal cord are seen more frequently than in western series.

Unfortunately the HL-A antigens are available only for Japan; HL-A 3 was found in none of 20 Japanese MS cases, in one in 200 non-MS Japanese compared with 23% in Caucasians. HL-A7 was found in 10%, 15%, and 23% respectively.

There are other chapters of considerable interest. Kurland on 'Is the population pattern compatible with a genetic determinant?'—'Comparative epidemiological studies of MS in South Africa and Japan' by Bird and Satoyoshi—'Eales disease' by Singhal and Dastur—various chapters on pathology and aetiology—'Viral studies and epidemiology' by Brody—'Experimental allergic encephalomyelitis as an experimental model' by Nagai, and 'Studies on the myelination inhibiting factor in EAE and human diseases' by Yonezawa, Saida, and Hasegawa.

This book should be of great interest to anyone working on the problem of multiple sclerosis. An index would have added to its value.

J. H. D. MILLAR

Treatment of Pain By H. C. Voris and W. W. Whisler. (Pp. 161; illustrated; \$14.00.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1975.

It is extraordinary how often books dealing with this subject are merely technical manuals which give the reader the impression that those who use surgical techniques approach a patient much as a motor mechanic approaches a faulty car. The book under review consists of a series of papers presented at a symposium dealing with the treatment of chronic intractable pain, and does not falter from this line of approach. It follows the usual routine of dealing briefly with anatomical and physiological considerations, and omits

any mention of psychological factors which are crucial in a worthwhile assessment of chronic pain problems. It then plunges directly into papers on surgical techniques, all of which have already been written and talked about many times before. Most of the papers are short with an anecdotal style and, regrettably, critical evaluation of selection criteria and outcome measures is not much in evidence. There is one paper on the use of psychotropic drugs and the treatment of chronic pain, one on hypnosis, and one on acupuncture, but they are of poor quality. At \$14.00 this book is very poor value for money and not recommended.

M. R. BOND

Assessment and Management of Developmental Changes in Children By M. L. Erickson. (Pp. 268; illustrated; £6.95.) C. V. Moseley: St. Louis. 1976.

I found this book both interesting and disturbing. Essentially it is a rather verbose account of developmental and behavioural assessment and management of young children. 'Assessment' as distinct from 'diagnosis' is the key stone of recently introduced paediatric assessment centres in the United Kingdom. It purports to provide an operational description of locomotor, social, and language development in very young children with an analysis of their psychosocial milieu, in the belief that timely intervention will alleviate handicap, and assuage parental anxiety. Whereas in the UK the trend has been to encourage hybrid paediatricians to organise and mediate these activities, Mrs Erickson's book clearly implies that much of this can be undertaken by specially trained graduate nurses of whom the author is apparently a good example. Moreover, she anticipates systematic study of all infants and children, not only those who present with developmental and behavioural problems. This, of course, is also a feature of the work of health visitors and paediatric nurses here, but differs both in its intimate intensity, and in its emphasis on behaviour modification. My unhappiness at 'anticipatory intervention' to forestall 'undesirable behaviours' is because this may disguise

Multiple Sclerosis in Asia Edited by Yoshigoro Kuroiwa. (Pp. 275; price not stated.) University Park Press: Baltimore, London, and Tokyo. 1976.

This is the report of the Asian Multiple Sclerosis Workshop held in March 1975 in Tokyo. Some of the chapters have been published elsewhere but it is valuable to have this information under one cover and the comments of people interested in multiple sclerosis (MS).

Evidence is available from Japan,