

the use of one pharmacological agent, the specificity of which may be in doubt.

Some co-ordinating introductory or summarising chapter would have enhanced the appeal of the book. Many of the contributions are pharmacological and involved with pathway mapping in selected brain regions. The papers dealing specifically with neurotransmitter interactions are in the minority. Among valuable contributions to this are the chapters on interactions between pathways involving acetylcholine and catecholamines, and particularly the emphasis on a non-passive role for dendrites in neurotransmission. One small irritation is the contribution to jargon: terms such as "GABAergic" and "peptidergic" should be avoided.

Many of the chapters will prove of interest to neuropharmacologists rather than biochemists or physiologists, and I doubt if the book has much appeal for the clinician.

H. S. BACHELARD

Progress in Clinical Neurophysiology Volume 1—Attention, Voluntary Contraction and Event-Related Cerebral Potentials. Volume 2—Auditory Evoked Potentials in Man. Psychopharmacology Correlates of Evoked Potentials Edited by J. E. Desmedt. (Pp. 256 (vol. 1), 212 (vol. 2); illustrated; DM 98, \$37.75 per volume.) S. Karger: Basel, 1977.

With some notable exceptions, epilepsy and leucoencephalopathies, most neurologists and psychiatrists will admit to disappointment with the clinical application of electroencephalography, and many have advocated closer study of stimulus-response relationships of the EEG. It is, accordingly, frustrating to the many clinical neurologists active in this field that the major advances of the last decade are largely unfamiliar to the clinicians apart from the recent acceptance of latency prolongation of visual evoked potentials in the diagnosis of retrobulbar neuritis. The impossibility of keeping abreast with the literature during its formative years is certainly a reason for this paradox, though the bibliography of the books noticed here makes it clear that most of the useful papers have appeared in *Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology*. (They are rarely offered to this Journal though we would welcome a

state-of-the-art review for clinicians.) Clearly the time has come to review the event-related potentials of the brain. Professor Desmedt of Brussels is to be congratulated for undertaking the difficult task of editing a series under the general title of *Progress in Clinical Neurophysiology*, and the first two volumes augur well for its future. Volume 1 is concerned with the neurophysiological mechanisms underlying selective attention, slow potential shifts in the brain, and the cerebral potentials associated with voluntary movements. The chapters are, by and large, contributions of personal studies rather than the reviews anticipated. They are all worth reading but give the impression of expanded symposium proceedings, and one is left in some doubt regarding the borderline between accepted fact and speculation. Editorial policy seems tentative—for instance, the useful introductory chapter on publication criteria is regularly flouted in later chapters, and a footnote on the first page of volume 2 (use of "potential" and "response") is ignored three pages later and in subsequent chapters. Nevertheless, volume 2 gives a better impression of planned contributions. The studies on auditory evoked potentials are already accepted as clinically relevant, and the later chapters on psychopharmacology offer great hope for the future.

These books are difficult to read seriatim, and yet are not quite systematic enough to use for occasional reference. Nevertheless, they are welcome as a survey of new thinking in a branch of clinical neurophysiology which had become static. We must look forward eagerly to the seven volumes which are to follow. Perhaps at an early stage we could have a glossary of the many unfamiliar abbreviations.

J. A. SIMPSON

The Peripheral Nerve Edited by D. N. Landon. (Pp. 836; illustrated; £25.00.) Chapman and Hall: London, 1976.

The aim of this volume is to collate and systematise present knowledge of structure and function, development and pathology, recent research and technical innovations in the mammalian peripheral nervous system. More than half the book is devoted to a detailed consideration of the macro, micro, and intracellular structure of the peripheral motor and sensory nerve fibres and

autonomic ganglia, their processes and integuments. Successive chapters deal with myelinated axons, unmyelinated axons, sensory ganglia, the perineurium and connected tissue of peripheral nerve, the functional anatomy of the anterior horn cells, spinal and cranial nerve roots, and autonomic nervous system. The peripheral terminations of sensory and motor factors are discussed in two separate chapters. In view of the interest in the functional anatomy of the motor nerve terminals, two separate chapters are devoted to the structure and function of the endplates. All this is contained in the first 500 pages of the book, and the remaining 300 pages are devoted to presentation of the chemistry of myelin, the histochemistry of peripheral nerve terminals, and a penultimate chapter on the pathophysiology of the peripheral nervous system. The final 70 pages present a critical analysis of the electrophysiological properties of peripheral nerves with particular reference to the mechanisms of generation and propagation of the action potential.

Each chapter in this book is a concise and compact review of present knowledge and can certainly be usefully used as a reference book of peripheral nerve anatomy in particular. It is well illustrated, the illustrations and photographic reproductions being of very high quality. This book will be particularly useful to the postgraduate student researching the peripheral nervous system but no less so to the established worker in the field as a reference volume. It can be thoroughly recommended.

J. P. BALLANTYNE

Immunosuppressive Treatment Multiple Sclerosis Edited by Delmotte, O. R. Hommes, and Gonsette. (Pp. 224; illustrated; price not stated.) European Press: Gembloux, Belgium, 1977.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease of which the aetiology is unknown but there is some circumstantial evidence to suggest that it may have an immunopathological basis. There has now appeared a large number of very poorly carried out clinical trials of immunosuppressive treatment in multiple sclerosis. The duration of such trials, the selection of patients, the absence of adequate and proper controls, and the methods

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evaluation of therapy leave much to be desired, and any results from these trials are worthless. I am at a loss, therefore, to know why this book was published. It contains no new data, and several of the reports claim that immunosuppressive therapy is of benefit in the progressive form of the disease while others find benefit only in patients with a relapsing course. This hotchpotch of clinical trials, some of them not even completed and some lacking suitable controls, cannot be recommended.

PETER O. BEHAN

Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome By A. K. Shapiro, E. S. Shapiro, R. D. Bruun, and R. D. Sweet. (Pp. x+437; illustrated; \$22.50.) Raven Press: New York. 1978.

This is a large work on a rare syndrome. The authors have studied 392 patients over 11 years, and they report on their psychological and neurological findings in detail. They also review the quite extensive literature and discuss the neurophysiology, psychopathology, neurochemistry, and neuropathology of the syndrome. There is an important section on treatment, in which pride of place is given to haloperidol, and a final section of proposals for further research.

Most neurologists and psychiatrists see too few patients suffering from this distressing syndrome to acquire enough knowledge at first hand to enable them to treat such patients. The present volume will provide an excellent source book for the doctor who is only occasionally required to treat this condition. The book is also, by American standards, reasonably priced, at least for a library's budget.

J. L. GIBBONS

Fish's Outline of Psychiatry Third edition Edited by Max Hamilton. (Pp. 282; £5.00.) John Wright and Sons: Bristol. 1978.

My psychiatric reading to date has not included any of the late Professor Fish's books but his reputation led me to be favourably predisposed to this text. Moreover, being an outline, a comprehensive work was not anticipated. Unfortunately I am unable to recommend this edition, almost all chapters being open to criticism—for example,

Schneider's first rank symptoms of schizophrenia appear in the section on paranoid states, "typical flight of ideas" is said to be impossible to follow, "depressive reaction" is dismissed in one paragraph, behaviour therapy is not mentioned in the treatment of obsessional reactions. These objections apart, the approach which leads to subdividing organic states into 17 syndromes, many of which merge into each other, and there being no possibility of these being eventually susceptible to a specific treatment, seems inappropriate. Surely such hairsplitting will only serve to confuse the potential reader who is choosing among available texts of similar length.

J. A. G. WATT

Multiple Choice Questions in Psychiatry By Geoffrey Glew. (Pp. xii+78; £2.95.) Butterworths: London and Boston. 1978.

This little book contains 300 multiple choice questions, arranged in five sets of 60 questions. The format is that used in many postgraduate examinations in Britain, the "multiple true-false" variety. There are a few hints on how to deal with a multiple choice question paper and a reading list. The title is rather misleading as the content of the questions is not general psychiatry but rather those disciplines basic to psychiatry that make up the syllabus of the Preliminary Test of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The purpose of the book is to provide practice for candidates.

J. L. GIBBONS

Psychiatric Examination in Clinical Practice By J. P. Leff, and A. D. Isaacs. (Pp. 152; illustrated; £4.25.) Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford, 1978.

The aim of this book is to give a didactic account of a standardised method of conducting a psychiatric diagnostic interview. It is directed at trainee psychiatrists and relies heavily on the authors' experience in developing and teaching the method of the Present State Examination as a research tool. The merits of the book have in the main come out of this work, for example, the method of eliciting symptoms by polite cross-questioning, the definitions of schizophrenic psychopathology, and the assessment of *severity* of

neurotic symptoms. The last chapter, Case Presentation, is excellent, succinct advice and should be read immediately by any junior psychiatrist whose consultant shuffles impatiently when presented with a case history, and by any candidate who has failed the clinical section of Part II of the MRC Psych Examination.

The book is, however, seriously flawed. It makes exciting clinical signs appear boring and routine. Despite the authors' apparently jaded enthusiasm for clinical phenomena, chapter 2, First Impressions, reads like an undergraduate examination answer and lacks any conviction of clinical experience or sense of proportion. The book does not even attempt to make biological sense out of clinical signs and symptoms, and is written for "apprentice fitters" rather than "apprentice engineers." There is no attempt to accommodate any of the philosophy behind the problem-oriented approach.

The overall impression is of a watered-down version of the Present State Examination and its glossary, perhaps written for trainees whose first language is not English. This suspicion is strengthened when one finds the heading Third Person Auditory Hallucinations asterisked, and the footnote stating "in grammar the first person is I, the second person is you, and the third person is he, she, or it."

This book deserves a place in the library for the reasons outlined in the first paragraph. I will also try it out on my undergraduate students but without major alteration it does not merit becoming the authors' intention of a practical handbook.

E. P. WORRALL

Neuropsychology: A Clinical Approach By Kevin W. Walsh. (Pp. 371; illustrated; hardback £10.00, paperback £7.00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1978.

This is one of the very few general textbooks of neuropsychology, and the author is uniquely well equipped to write the book, having both a medical and a psychological background. This background is reflected in the introductory chapters which contain not only an interesting review of history of neuropsychology, but also a brief account of neuroanatomy and neurology