

Book reviews

sider how severe a loss of function there may be in the hand, despite the virtual normality of the patient's response to the usual forms of neurological sensory testing.

Parts 2 and 3 cover the management of motor nerve and upper motor neurone injuries. The place of tendon transfer in the treatment of nerve injury, and the surgery of the hemiplegic hand will be of considerable value in helping the neurologist to decide which of his patients may benefit from surgical referral. Also in this section is an excellent review of neuromas by Dr Bruce Williams.

Part 4, which covers pressure ulcerations, is a most excellent resumé of the problems faced in this aspect of spinal injury treatment. It deals well with both the conservative and surgical treatment of pressure ulceration, and there is a chapter on the control of spasticity in the spinal injured patient. More mention might have been made in this section of the selective myelotomies now being tried in the lower cord region, to try and relieve spasticity without producing bladder problems.

The corrective surgery for facial palsy has advanced rapidly in recent years, with the development of microsurgical nerve anastomosis techniques. Many neurologists and neurosurgeons maybe unaware of this work, and the fifth section of this book, in dealing with facial palsy, will be of considerable practical value. Hans Anderl contributes an excellent chapter on cross-over grafting and presents his results in an honest fashion. Muhlbauer writes about his technique of palpebral magnets for parietic lagophthalmos, and the short chapter on free muscle grafts, although intriguing, is probably of more physiological than practical interest at present.

I consider this volume a tribute to those plastic surgeons who are extending their speciality so far beyond the limited confines of cosmetic surgery. This is a well-produced and superbly illustrated book. There is no question that it should be available for reference to all neurologists and neurosurgeons. I feel sure that for many it will introduce them to concepts of treatment for the neurologically disabled that they had not previously considered. Co-operation between neurologist and plastic surgeon is, at the

moment in its infancy. It is to be hoped that this volume will stimulate further co-operation to the ultimate benefit of the patient suffering from such common and disabling diseases.

T. A. H. HIDE

Stereotaxic Atlas of the Human Brainstem and Cerebellar Nuclei—A Variability Study Edited by F. Afshar, E. S. Watkins, and J. C. Yap. (Pp. 248; illustrated; \$188.50.) Raven Press: New York. 1978.

The volume has five sections. The first covers the technique for the atlas construction including the reference points and planes. It also deals with the materials and methods and the measurements used for the statistical analysis. The stereotaxic reference points were identified with the help of positive contrast ventriculography and telerradiography while the specimen was held in a stereotaxic frame. The measurements were made from 30 hemi-brainstems. The reference planes were the floor of the fourth ventricle, the midline of the brainstem, and a plane passing perpendicular to the floor of the fourth ventricle at the level of the fastigium.

The information on the brainstem structures is presented in the second and third parts. The second part describes the structure and its position within the brainstem and is supported by data and statistical analysis of measurements made on structures within the brainstem. There is a series of tables and charts of the mean value for each border of the structure together with the standard deviation and standard error of the means. The frequency distribution chart is shown, rostral and caudal to the fastigial plane. The coronal section and the maximum frequency distribution of the structure are also shown. This part of the atlas is reminiscent of the variability study previously of Andrew and Watkins in *A Stereotaxic Atlas of the Human Thalamus and Adjacent Structures*. Further probability data are given in the present atlas along the caudal-rostral extent of the structure. The information would be of great help to the stereotaxic surgeon in planning surgery and gives some idea regarding the shape of the structure. From this information, the third part of the volume has been constructed and consists of a stereotaxic atlas depicting the structures of the

brainstem. The outlines of the structures are based on calculations of means from the data obtained from 70% or more of the specimens. An accompanying illustrative microphotograph is also shown for each level.

The fourth and fifth parts of the volume deal with the cerebellar nuclei and show the relevant statistical analysis and the stereotaxic atlas. The authors draw attention to the change in one reference plane for this part of the atlas.

The atlas is of fundamental importance to the stereotaxic surgeon and fulfils the very important requirement of a surgeon in stereotaxic surgery. Physiological corroboration would still be required in view of the variability of the position of the structure as shown by the atlas. In the future, computerised tomography may be of help if the resolution of the system becomes capable of directly portraying target structures within the brainstem without the need for the present method of using indirect radiological reference points. The book will be a very welcome addition to the armamentarium of the stereotaxic surgeon.

JOHN W. TURNER

The Biological Basis of Schizophrenia Edited by Gywnneth Hemmings and W. A. Hemmings. (Pp. 272; illustrated; £12.95.) MTP Press: Lancaster. 1978. The starting point of this book is defined in the preface—"for years lip service has been paid to a belief in a biological basis for schizophrenia but nevertheless psychosocial and psychodynamic 'theories' of schizophrenia have been promulgated and these have detracted from the all important biological work."

Many of the contributors present their views with a crusader's zeal, unfortunately seeing others with different views as the enemy whose efforts must be disposed of by vehement attack rather than by reasoned debate. This is sad as some of these workers have laboured long and hard in pioneering investigations into the aetiology of the schizophrenias. On the whole, I came away from the book sadder but not necessarily wiser. Several themes are dealt with. The first one, which receives most attention, is the possible link between gastrointestinal pathology and

schizophrenia, starting with the earlier work of Buscaino and Baruk and leading on to the studies by Wurtmann on the effect of changes in dietary intake on brain transmitter metabolism. Recent work on the possible cytotoxic properties of wheat proteins are reviewed as are studies indicating the factors on gut function and pathology.

The dopamine hypothesis is revisited, and its failure to provide a convincing explanation for the aetiology of schizophrenia is exposed, although it provides a more satisfactory basis for understanding the mode of action of antipsychotic drugs.

Drug treatments of schizophrenia get less attention than expected and give no real practical guidance to the management of patients. Admittedly this is a book for the specialist but the non-psychiatrist could read the book and still have no clear view of the clinical problem of the schizophrenic patient nor really be aware that we are almost certainly dealing with a number of disease entities at present included in the general title of the schizophrenias. I hope that somewhere in this volume there is a clue to the cause of at least one of these illnesses. The prize in terms of alleviation of suffering is high but there is every indication that the search is far from over at present. Hopefully there is enough excitement to spur on those already involved and to encourage new workers to enter the field.

G. ASHCROFT

Schizophrenia: An International Follow-up Study World Health Organisation. (Pp. 438; £16.00.) John Wiley and Sons: Chichester. 1979.

The first report of the International Pilot Study of Schizophrenia (IPSS) was published in 1973. The study, using precise examination techniques applicable in each culture and of acceptable reliability, clearly identified in each of nine centres similar groups of schizophrenic patients. The present volume describes a two year follow-up. All patients were traced, but adequate current state data were obtainable for only three-quarters. Treatment was not standardised, and there was little information about intervening variables.

Previous studies of outcome have to an extent lacked comparability. The standardised methods used here, sub-

jected to close statistical analysis, showed the feasibility of an international study, and the results broadly confirmed a number of conventional clinical indicators of prognosis and consistency of symptoms, while also supporting some earlier hypotheses on the influence of culture on outcome. The complexities of the study, in widely differing cultures, are admirably discussed. (Is it better to have schizophrenia in Nigeria than Denmark, and if so, why?)

This is an essential volume for a psychiatric library, and while the methodology is discussed in appropriate detail, the literature review and the conclusions are of direct clinical significance. A five year follow-up is in preparation.

ALAN TAIT

Management of Schizophrenia Edited by H. M. van Praag. (Pp. 118; Dfl 21.50.) Van Gorcum: Assen. 1979.

The stated purpose of the Dutch conference which this small book reports was to demonstrate that biological and social factors both contribute to the aetiology of schizophrenia and should both be considered in planning treatment. Contrary to the editor's opening statement only a small minority of psychiatrists are likely to quarrel with such a laudable aim, and unfortunately the few who do are unlikely to be convinced of the error of their ways by reading this book. Three of the six chapters are worthy of note. Hogarty presents the findings of the NIMH collaborative study on the interaction between drug and social therapy, Johnson reviews the use of depot neuroleptics, and Leff attempts to demonstrate that arousal mediates the stressful effects of the social environment on the schizophrenic. Since all these data are available elsewhere, and the remaining chapters are rather mundane, this volume cannot be recommended.

ROBIN MURRAY

Schizophrenia: Towards a New Synthesis Edited by J. K. Wing. (Pp. xii + 291; illustrated; £8.00.) Academic Press: London. 1978.

This is an excellent book which all psychiatrists should own. John Wing has gathered a group of distinguished authors, all of whom have made important contributions to research in

schizophrenia. There are authoritative accounts of the clinical features of schizophrenia, of epidemiology, genetics, social aspects and so on. Each chapter is worth reading carefully. The chapter on genetics by the late James Shields, shows how sad a loss his death has been. The chapter on social work with patients and their families can be especially recommended, for it contains much important material that will be new to many doctors. All in all this is an excellent book and well worth the price.

J. L. GIBBONS

Schizophrenia: Science and Practice Edited by J. C. Shershow. (Pp. 248; illustrated; £10.50.) Harvard University Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts. 1978.

This is a collection of lectures on various aspects of schizophrenia, given by well-known American research workers at the Massachusetts General Hospital. It is not a complete review of modern work on schizophrenia but rather a series of statements (with a very variable amount of research data) by investigators with very different viewpoints. There is very little in this volume that has not been said before, but it can be read with pleasure as a series of essays.

J. L. GIBBONS

Psychiatric Diagnosis: Exploration of Biological Predictors Edited by H. S. Akiskal and W. L. Webb. (Pp. 483; illustrated; £17.50.) Spectrum Publications: New York. 1978.

This is essentially a record of the proceedings of an International Neuroscience Symposium held in Memphis in 1975, although the editors tell us that "all the presented papers have been thoroughly rewritten, revised, updated, and expanded into chapters." The aim of the conference was to explore "the potential ability of biological predictors in psychiatric diagnosis." After several articles on the whole question of clinical diagnosis, there are papers on genetic aspects, on biochemical and pharmacological correlates, and so on. The contributions vary greatly (and independently) in length and quality, and they contain little that is new. It was no doubt a fascinating conference to have attended, but not one of the very few worth recording in print.

J. L. GIBBONS

J Neuro Neurosurg Psychiatry 1980; 43: 1072-1075