

Myriantopoulos was published in 1963, and much has happened since then, particularly in those fields in which this author has special experience. His general review of the disease is based on a personal family study of 170 patients in the USA, while working on genetic linkage in Dr Victor McKusick's Department at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. The chapters on the genetic basis of the disorder, and on preclinical detection and genetic counselling are outstanding, as is the long account of myotonic dystrophy in infancy and childhood which is another of the author's special interests. The monograph is written by one with extensive first hand knowledge of the disease, and an impressive grasp of the literature on the topic. The presentation is pleasing, the text large and easy to read, and there are abundant illustrations of original material. I will keep this monograph on my shelves as the contemporary standard reference work on myotonic dystrophy, and all neurological and general medical libraries should possess a copy.

CD MARSDEN

**Pediatric Cerebral Angiography** by AJ Raimondi and LJ Cerullo (pp 211; DM120) Stuttgart: George Thieme Verlag, 1980.

Raimondi the principal author of this atlas has long been recognised as a neurosurgeon who has exploited cerebral angiography in the investigation and management of brain disorder from early infancy throughout the paediatric age group. Before the CT era angiography had been accepted as the safest and usually most informative invasive method of investigation, supplanting ventriculography and pneumoencephalography. Raimondi was one of the first to recognise that angiography was safe in infancy and could be used for the investigation of infantile hydrocephalus. It is a pleasure to welcome this atlas illustrated by subtraction radiographs of the highest quality which records Raimondi's unrivalled experience of the subject.

The paediatric neuroradiologist will find illustrated in this book almost every condition he is likely to encounter with the possible exception of herpes encephalitis, an illness which may lead to admission to a neurosurgical ward and in which early diagnosis and the use of new drugs has

improved the prognosis. Each chapter is introduced by a clinical and pathological section which enhances the value of the radiology. There is a selection of excellent references at the end of each chapter. The legends give a very full description of the salient points but the style of some suggests they were composed to be spoken rather than read. Your reviewer was saddened to find the eponym Dandy Walker Cyst relegated to brackets after 'Cystic Transformation of the Fourth Ventricle'. Dandy and Walker were leaders of their generation of neurosurgeons in the USA and Dandy should be known to all neuroradiologists as the first to perform ventriculography and encephalography—the latter a term more acceptable to neuroradiologists than Raimondi's 'pneumoencephalography'. It is now an infrequent examination but no one would embark upon it without the facility for tomography.

These criticisms do not detract from the excellence of this atlas. One is tempted to question the place of such a volume in the CT era when many of the conditions illustrated can be displayed by a noninvasive method and in many centres angiography is used almost exclusively for the investigation of vascular disorders. Those who now lack access to CT are unlikely to produce angiograms which compare with Raimondi's. However his experience of paediatric angiography is now available under one cover. One hopes that in the next edition the editor and publishers will permit him to add matching CT (or other noninvasive) images, for which there would be ample space, and thus make the atlas even more attractive to paediatric neurosurgeons and neuroradiologists.

RD HOARE

**The Suicide Syndrome** edited by Richard Farmer and Steven Hirsch (pp 268; £14.95) London: Groom Helm, 1980.

This book contains edited versions of 21 papers delivered by invited speakers, most of them British, at a symposium on suicide and parasuicide held at Charing Cross Hospital in October 1978. Most of the papers were interesting to hear and they are still interesting to read. They give an overview of current thought and current work in these related fields. In parasuicide in particular there are inter-

esting accounts of different ways of looking at this all-too-frequent form of behaviour which continues to impose a considerable strain on the medical and psychiatric services in Great Britain. Different approaches to the assessment and the management of patients who have performed an act of self-poisoning or self-injury are also described. Anyone interested in self-poisoning—and that should include all general physicians, psychiatrists and general practitioners—can learn from this book. This makes it all the more unfortunate that the format of the book is so unattractive with no attempt at justification of the typescript.

JL GIBBONS

**The Neurobiology of Dopamine** edited by A S Horn, J Korf, and B H C Westerink (pp 723; \$83.00) London: Academic Press, 1979.

Research into cerebral dopamine function has been at the forefront of neuropharmacological and neurochemical research for the past decade. The importance of altered brain dopamine function to neurology and psychiatry has been emphasised by its apparent role in movement disorders and schizophreniform illness. *The Neurobiology of Dopamine* has successfully attempted to bring together all aspects of dopamine research under one cover. This work provides a comprehensive insight into this field as a whole and will be of general interest to those working in brain research. The major shortcomings of the volume lie in the generally superficial approach to individual topics and the fact that some of the hypotheses put forward have now been disproved or superseded. But until the present time there has been no volume available to which one could turn for such a complete overview of cerebral dopamine function. It will be invaluable as the reference book for dopamine and as the volume to which research students and research workers entering this field can be pointed to obtain a basic knowledge of dopamine in biological systems. In my opinion *The Neurobiology of Dopamine* will be an asset to all those concerned with nervous system function and its editors are to be congratulated on producing a thoroughly worthwhile addition to the literature.

PG JENNER