a functional disorder. Visual fields are tested with the patient lying supine and keeping one eye closed with gentle finger pressure whilst the open eye is fixed on a cross on the ceiling. If there is difficulty in the clinical diagnosis of delirium, it is suggested that useful confirmation can be given by a study of the nature of the images produced by light pressure over the eyes. The cremesteric reflex is said to be specifically useful to the psychiatrist only in cases of sexual dysfunction, a suggestion which might at least lead to an actual physical examination of the genitalia.

The book suffers from both a lack of precision and any kind of critical approach. As a bad example of the former, it is suggested that psychiatrists are not called upon to measure visual acuity precisely; and of the latter, that l-tryptophan may reverse psychiatric toxicity due to levodopa in the treatment of parkinsonism; a suggestion founded on a single unconfirmed study. Although the book attempts to be a simple and practical guide, more details of exact diagnosis and management need to be presented, as for example in the value of clinical and laboratory tests in distinguishing myasthenia gravis from neurasthenia. Although parts of this book are good psychiatry for neurologists, it does not form an acceptable basis for the study of neurology by psychiatrists. Spend twice as much and buy Lishman's organic psychiatry which covers much of the same ground but has infinitely greater value.

JD PARKES

Clinical Neuroepidemiology Edited by F Clifford Rose (pp 416; £25.00) Tunbridge Wells: Pitman Medical, 1980.

The Mansell Bequest Symposia at the Medical Society of London have been organised by Clifford Rose, who now edits the proceedings of the event devoted to neuroepidemiology. The 400-odd pages contain many erudite essays, but the field is covered unevenly. A half of the book is devoted, about equally, to cerebrovascular disease and to multiple sclerosis. Acheson and Williams, in a provocative tone, draw attention to six crucial unanswered questions on stroke. Schoenberg gives a brisk review of risk factors for stroke, and there are other chapters on stroke registers, which obviously are possible but very time consuming. I turned to a chapter on assessing the effort of stroke rehabilitation with expectation, but found only a repetition of how difficult it is to study these matters. Meade and Smith describe these problems in recruiting candidates for a simple assessment of out-patient intensive rehabilitation compared with conventional therapy in the setting of a busy well-organised district hospital. No less than 88% of those admitted with a stroke over a six year period were unsuitable for such a study. Within the framework of the NHS, such trials appear to demand multicentre organisation but we have been remiss in not attending to such matters. The section on multiple sclerosis is dominated by Kurtzke's extensive review, work initiated by Geoffrey Dean mainly concerning the incidence of multiple sclerosis in immigrants to the United Kingdom and a number of studies in Northern Scotland and the adjacent islands. These fascinating data still point to the concept that this mysterious illness is acquired many years before its clinical onset, and that the cause will be found where the disease is common. Another large section of the book is devoted to paediatric neuroepidemiology with, amongst others, interesting contributions from Rutter and Chadwick on "minimal brain dysfunction", and Graham *et al* on language delay. The volume is introduced by general papers on statistical methods, mathematics and the principles of epidemiology; it finishes with a pot pourri of contributions on miscellaneous topics. These include Jennett on head injury, Waters on migraine, Marmot on the cohort hypothesis of Parkinson's disease, Foster on syringomyelia and Murland *et al* on head trauma, motor neurone disease and febrile fits. Any book of this nature inevitably describes work published in full elsewhere, and some reviews are curt while others are extensive. However, it may be useful to have this volume on the shelf as an introduction to the topic of neuroepidemiology.

CD MARSDEN

Electro-diagnosis in Clinical Neurology By MJ Aminoff (pp 577; £24.00) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1980.

This is an ambitious compendium of electroencephalography, electromyography and evoked potentials in neurological practice, 13 chapters being devoted to these. The other four chapters are on the history of clinical neurophysiology, electronystagmography, sleep disorders and brain death. The book is directed to informing neurologists of what is available in neurophysiology and neurophysiologists of clinical relevance of studies which are available. Each chapter is written by a different author. Most chapters contain details of recording techniques ranging from summaries to fuller accounts. While the work will certainly succeed in giving a broad view to a neurologist the quality of different parts is uneven and much should be read rather critically. Some of the bibliographies reveal a parochial approach, others are wider and more useful. The book will make a starting point for those who plan to set up services in departments and will give a trainee neurologist some idea of what can be done in clinical neurophysiology today.

RG WILLISON

Notices

The Epilepsy International Congress 1981. This will be held in Kyoto, Japan 17–21 September, 1981. Further information may be obtained from: The Secretariat, c/o International Conference Organizers, Inc, No 103 Crescent Plaza, 4–6 Minami-Aoyama 2-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 107 Japan.

The International Symposium on Cerebrovascular Diseases: new trends in surgical and medical aspects. This will be held in Gardone Riviera, 2–4 July, 1981. Further information may be obtained from: The Secretariat, Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini, Via Monte Napoleone, 23–20121 Milan, Italy.

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