Book reviews

out under headings grouping together individual neurological diseases. For example, chapter 3 describes disorders of voluntary movement, and includes myaesthesia, myotonia, spasticity, Bell's palsy and periodic paralysis, while chapter 4 deals with involuntary movements including Parkinsonism, and dyskinesias such as chorea, dystonia, myoclonus, tremor and so on. Each clinical entity is dealt with in a standard fashion. The disordered mechanisms responsible for the condition are discussed, the drugs used to treat the syndrome are described (with full details of their chemistry, biochemical pharmacology, pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, interactions and toxicity), and then the way in which such drugs are used to manage the condition in question is reviewed. Physical and surgical therapies are mentioned briefly where appropriate. Each drug is only described in detail in one section; for example, diazepam is reviewed in the section on epilepsy, but is mentioned in the treatment of spasticity, headache, tremor and so on. The text covers virtually every condition the neurologist will be called upon to treat, including leprosy, cerebral malaria, and the painful crises of Fabry's disease. In a next edition it would be helpful, for rapid reference, to have the conditions and drugs discussed in each chapter listed in the table of contents. There is an excellent list of original references and a reasonable index.

I have kept this book next to me for some time to test its value. The sections on drug details are quite excellent, and I have only rarely had to return to Martindale or Goodman and Gilman in recent months. The descriptions of management of individual diseases are sound and instructive. The style here is to provide the available evidence and allow the reader to judge for himself the best course of action. Although most forms of therapy are mentioned, the details of some of the less used treatments are sometimes not given. For example, few practitioners are completely familiar with the details of treatment of Wilson's disease, but they will not find guidance on how to judge the dose of penicillamine, or what to do if the patient gets a rash! Indeed, this would be my only (mild) criticism of the book. The data on drugs will provide practically everything the practitioner requires, but the details of management could, with advantage, be expanded. In conclusion, an excellent reference manual which I would recommend to all neurologists to keep by their desk, in their wards and, with benefit late at night, at home. Klawans and Weiner's *Textbook of Clinical Neuropharmacology* is laid out on different principles. The accent is more heavily on mechanisms of disease than on drugs, with less emphasis on basic pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. As befits these authors

extensive experience in the field of movement disorders, there are many chapters devoted to akinetic-rigid syndromes and dyskinesias (the latter include chapters on hemiballism, dystonia, Gilles de la Tourette syndrome, essential tremor, primary writing tremor, stiff person (sic) syndrome, myoclonus, and paroxysmal kinesogenic choreoathetosis). Also reflecting the authors' interests and expertise, there are chapters on schizophrenia, anxiety states, depression and minimal brain dysfunction. The approach in each chapter is to review the basic pharmacological and biochemical pathophysiology of the disorder in question, often in a historical framework which sets events in sequence and context, and then to turn to practical management. The latter often is helpful, with many of the difficult problems faced by clinicians given a fair airing. However, the balance of the book is somewhat skewed towards movement disorders. Parkinson's disease receives 33 pages, which is correct, but stroke is dealt with in nine, and multiple sclerosis in two. Infectious diseases, deficiency diseases, and systemic diseases are not included at all. This reflects the basic aims of the book. This is not a textbook of neurological therapeutics, but a textbook of clinical neuropharmacology. The authors have been pioneers in this young and rapidly expanding field, and their book reflects their views of the science of neuropharmacology as seen today. No doubt the picture will continue to change as rapidly in the future as it has in the past, and as new knowledge accrues in different fields, so the balance of a book like this will change. Anyone with an interest in movement disorders will have to purchase this volume, and any neurologist or neuroscientist with an interest in neuropharmacology will need to consult it.

CD MARSDEN

Neural Aging and Its Implications in Human Neurological Pathology. Edited by RD Terry, CL Bolis and G Toffano. (Pp 270; \$38.08.) New York: Raven Press, 1982.

The publication of symposia on aging continues to provide volumes in the series published by Raven Press. Volume 18 reports data concerned principally with pathology presented at a meeting convened by the World Health Organisation and held in Geneva in December 1980. The book therefore contains contributions from unusual sources, including China, Senegal, Mexico, USSR, and Brazil. Some of the 15 chapters report work already familiar from other publications but the book contains much useful material. In a thoughtful opening chapter Gajdusek considers the

possibility that slow virus infections may be related to aging, or more specifically to Alzheimer's dementia. There are several contributions on lipofuscin in aging, but these are somewhat disappointing since they make little reference to recent quantitative work on the distribution of this pigment in the brain. Terry reviews recent work on the pathology of senile dementia and, in succeeding chapters, there are reviews of zinc and aluminium metabolism, together with comments on other experimental models for the study of aging in neurons. There are several accounts from different countries of problems in the clinical diagnosis of dementia and other chapters review selected aspects of the literature on receptor function and pharmacological attempts to manipulate symptoms in this disease. The book concludes with contributions on the epidemiology and significance of aging of the brain from developing countries. Finally, Roth reviews the relation between the clinical features and the pathology of senile dementia.

The book thus contains much that is interesting, although relatively little that is new; it will be a useful volume to those working in the field of human aging and dementia.

MICHAEL SWASH

Viral Infections of the Nervous System Richard T Johnson. (Pp 446; \$74.80.) New York: Raven Press, 1982.

This is an excellent book. It is the work of one of the world's leading authorities on viral diseases of the nervous system and is without doubt the best reference volume on this difficult subject. It is a reflection of the author's scholarly and enthusiastic attitude to both clinical and basic science aspects of virology.

The book is in four parts. The first includes an interesting history of virology, and all the chapters are headed by an apt, and often amusing, historical quotation. This is followed by comprehensive accounts of virus and virus-cell interaction; pathogenesis of central nervous system infection including entry of viruses and virus pathways to the central nervous system; and a superb review of immune responses. The latter is so well dealt with, that a complex subject is made, well . . . not simple, but definitely readable. This section could almost be published as a separate introduction to immunology.

The second part of the book deals with acute neurological disease, in particular the viruses which most frequently cause aseptic

meningitis and encephalitis and poliomyelitis. Differential diagnosis is, unfortunately, poorly done and this is really one of the few criticisms one can make of this otherwise outstanding book. Clinical text books (with only one exception known to this reviewer) approach a subject in a way which suggests the reader already knows most of the facts and the author is really performing a kindness in arranging the facts in a conventional (but often confusing) way. In clinical practice the diagnosis of encephalitis is often extremely difficult and paradoxically, the diagnosis of "encephalitis" is too readily made. For example, in one American series the substantiated diagnosis of encephalitis was made in only 30% of referred cases with that diagnosis. In another (UK) series a similar discrepancy was found. It is clear that a book devoted to viral infections of the nervous system must have an easy to follow and systematic section on diagnosis and differential diagnosis. The need for this is exemplified not only by the frequent misdiagnosis of this condition, but also by the referral of suspected cases of encephalitis to neurosurgeons, to psychiatrists, and even, in one personal case, to a gynaecologist!

The value and the use of the electroencephalogram in encephalitis is also poorly dealt with. In fact, it is not even mentioned in the index. The description of characteristic complexes in the EEG in herpes encephalitis should be attributed to Upton and Gumpert. In practice the EEG is extremely useful, often quicker and more accurate in the elucidation of the cause, than contrast studies or scans.

The third part of the book deals with chronic neurological diseases and, again, the accounts of viral infections of the developing nervous system; chronic inflammatory and demyelinating conditions; the so-called degenerative diseases—the spongiform encephalopathies; and the association of cerebral tumour and virus are quite outstanding. These sections must surely rank as the best reviews of these interesting and important subjects.

The final part of the book contains subdivisions on retinitis, labyrinthitis, myositis and vasculitis. Laboratory diagnosis is touched on throughout the book and in this final section conventional and rapid diagnostic methods are reviewed. Prevention, therapy and future prospects are dealt with separately.

In all, a thoroughly good and interesting book which will undoubtedly become a neurological classic. LS ILLIS

Nervous System Toxicology (Target Organ and Toxicology Series). Edited by Clifford L. Mitchell. (Pp 392; \$71.92.) New York: Raven Press, 1982.

The title of this book is a little misleading. *Nervous System Toxicology* suggests that the subject matter might be concerned with toxic substances, their effects on the nervous system and modes of action. In fact 258 of 373 pages are concerned with techniques of behavioural testing. There are many long descriptions of such tests, with critical assessment of their significance and limitations. There is a paucity of subject matter about toxic substances, and more concrete examples would have been helpful to substantiate the theoretical discussions. The chapter on testing of the auditory system is an exception in providing good illustrations of the application of the techniques discussed.

Consideration is given in the rest of the book to the methods and limitations of neuropathology, electrophysiology, tissue culture and neurochemistry. In contrast to the detailed discussions in the first part of the book, the brevity of these sections has of necessity led to superficial treatment.

\$71.92 is a lot to pay for an insight into the technical dilemma's and methodological controversies of the various American schools of behavioural toxicology. However, for those who are concerned with interpreting results of behavioural tests it may be useful to have available these critical assessments of the methods currently used.

PAMELA M LE QUESNE

Year Book of Neurology and Neurosurgery 1982. Edited by (neurology) Russell N De Jong and Robert D Currier, (neurosurgery) Oscar Sugar. (Pp 499; £25.) London: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1982.

The 1982 Year Book welcomes the addition of Dr Robert Currier to its editorial staff. The format of the book remains similar to those of previous editions, containing 19 sections on neurology and 11 sections on neurosurgery. As in the past it succeeds in providing a surprisingly comprehensive coverage of basic neurosciences, diagnostic and clinical studies, as well as reviewing many therapeutic aspects of nervous disease both medical and surgical.

Although the individual sections represent summaries of articles abstracted from a wide range of journals, the editors have done an excellent job in providing a readable account which in many instances

say all that is needed about the individual topic under consideration. Tables, graphs and illustrations are judiciously chosen and well reproduced.

There is something in here for everyone involved in the neurosciences. The selection has been performed with great skill and provides an easy way for the reader to acquaint himself with modern work covering topics which he might otherwise overlook. The succinct editorial comments are perhaps the highlight of the book, being brief, informal and not infrequently whimsical. Their flavour can be gathered from one example comparing various evoked potential techniques in multiple sclerosis where the editor remarks "Thirty-two of 33 (97%) patients with definite multiple sclerosis had one or more of the three types of evoked potential abnormalities. It would be lovely if these tests were also specific."

The neurosurgical section contains much that will interest both neurologists and neurosurgeons. Disc disease, vascular and haemorrhagic disease, tumours and trauma are all represented in a wide range of papers. Editorial footnotes tend to be longer in this section and frequently refer to recent conferences which make the volume even more up to date. Few clinicians can nowadays honestly boast that they keep abreast of all the literature relevant to their work. There are now a number of annual reviews, recent advances and abstracts; the choice of these tends to be a matter of personal taste. If I had to choose one, it would be this Year Book.

JOHN PEARCE

Foundations of Clinical Psychiatry. By Joseph M Strayhorn. (Pp 590; £26.50.) London: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1982.

This is the best short text book of psychiatry I have ever read. The author is an assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh, and he was assisted in his task of compiling his text book by four research assistants. They certainly did very well by him. Dr Strayhorn effortlessly reviews a large number of recently published papers in each chapter, and he writes with an engagingly personal style. He is particularly strong where most text books are weak: for example, his sections on the process of interviewing and his chapter describing guidelines for psychotherapy would be difficult for another author to equal, let alone better. The book is relatively weak on