Book reviews

EEG Technology, 3rd ed. By R Cooper, JW Osselson, and JC Shaw. (Pp 344; £16.00.) Sevenoaks: Butterworths, 1980.

The third edition of this now classic work has expanded substantially to cover every important new area succinctly and with judgement. The technology and techniques of clinical neurophysiology have broadened and matured remarkably in the last decade. Innovative methods of signal acquisition, analysis and statistical treatment have won clinical recognition, especially in the field of event-related (evoked) potential.

This volume contains basic chapters on the origin of the EEG, electrodes, connection of electrodes to amplifiers, recording systems (how can any manufacturer now fail to make good equipment!), operational techniques and visual analysis of EEG. Rather more explicit instruction on how to perform many routine procedures would be helpful to students starting to study as physiological measurement technicians. Newer material is mainly found in chapters on special techniques, event-related potentials (described with particular clarity) and an excellent review of EEG signal analysis. Appendices range from homely recipes for electrode jellies and pastes, via a factual report on a long pull-out sample for a fascinatingly complex EEG of a child with epilepsy, to source derivation and Fourier analysis.

New readers will find this a helpful and workmanlike volume having perhaps too concentrated a style for guiding those at a distance from the basic sciences but stimulating those with more expert knowledge. Errors, infelicities and omissions are minimal and one would recommend all those working with or applying neurophysiological techniques to read and re-read this volume from cover to cover.

PAMELA PRIOR

Current Trends in Treatment in Psychiatry. Edited by TG Tennent. (Pp 258; £19.00.) Tunbridge Wells: Pitman Medical Ltd, 1980.

In the midst of a large number of edited books from proceedings of conferences, this volume stands out for its attempt to present a different format. A main author has two commentaries to his paper and is then permitted a final response to these commentaries. While restricting the number of topics that can actually be covered

in a book of manageable size it leads to far greater exploration of the issues, and leads to a more balanced viewpoint than would occur if one author only was allowed to have his say.

The two most outstanding chapters are the ones by Marks on Current Trends in Behaviour Therapy and by Grahame-Smith on Neuropharmacology and Psychopharmacology. The former presents an up-to-date account of the present state of the art, dissecting out clearly those areas where behaviour therapy is of value. The commentaries emphasise in particular the gap that remains between the theory and practice of such techniques. The section on psychotherapy concentrates mainly on personal construct theories (Fransella) although Trick presents an uncritical descriptive pot-pourri of some newer therapies ranging from the Rogerian to the Primal Scream. For some reason this section on psychotherapy wanders from the format of the rest of the book, being without commentaries. The sections on the treatment of schizophrenia and depression are adequate, although surprisingly fail to discuss any of the new second generation antidepressants that have become available for use in the past few years. The final section covers sexual therapy and will be of interest to those currently engaged in the management of such problems.

Overall the book is nicely produced and well-edited and practising psychiatrists will not be disappointed if they allocate to it some of their time.

MICHAEL TRIMBLE

Advances in Neurology Volume 30. Diagnosis and Treatment of Brain Ischemia: CT brain blood flow, Brain hemodynamics, Carotid and vertebral artery surgery. Edited by Andrew L Carney and Evelyn M Anderson. (Pp 401; \$67.32. New York: Raven Press, 1981.

The current status of research in cerebrovascular disease is reflected in the fact that three-quarters of this book is devoted to technical advances. Positron emission tomography with its great potential for the study of cerebral metabolism inevitably dominates the scene. But the contributions on the use of the CT scanner in the dynamic mode (because of the wide availability of this machine) will be of interest to a wider readership. Wider coverage of rheological aspects of cerebral

blood flow would not have come amiss though there is a useful article on shear stress injury to arterial walls. Even in the clinical section technology obtrudes, the two articles on cardiac evaluation being concerned with automated physiological assessment and nuclear medicine procedures. There is however an interesting chapter on vertebral artery surgery and one on central vestibular signs.

The dust cover claim that "this volume provides the first comprehensive guide to the diagnosis and management of problems resulting from brain ischaemia" is so exaggerated that I concluded it had been mistakenly transferred from another book. But as a survey of some aspects of current progress in cerebrovascular disease it is a very useful volume.

JOHN MARSHALL

Brain Edema. Edited by Marinus de Vlieger, Samuel A de Lange, Jan WF Beks. (Pp 176; £22.75.) Chichester: John Wiley, 1981

There has been a remarkable increase in the amount of basic and clinical research on development and resolution of brain oedema in recent years. The pioneering work of Klatzo and the definition of acceptably separate types of brain oedema, cytotoxic and vasogenic, has proved of great value in stimulating further investigation, although subsequent work has tended to blur this didactic differentiation. This and the dynamic concepts of tissue gradients, of bulk transfer of fluid through tissue and correlation of oedema with a variety of clinically evident pathology, is well stated in this little book. The authors disclaim it as a mere publication of a symposium, but such was undoubtedly its foundation, and it is fortunate that several, though regrettably not all, the authors have thought it worthwhile to elaborate short communications into carefully annotated chapters which are well worthy of perusal by anyone interested in the subject. The book is of course patchy, as one might expect, but it is worth buying for the chapters of Hochwald, Reulen and Miller alone, and for the careful annotation of literature present in a number of other chapters, notably that of Bruce and his colleagues on brain oedema in children. One has become used to monographs costing over £20, and this one is just over that figure, but that is by no means an excessive sum