ences on depression are, of course, two a penny, for drug companies produce a seemingly endless supply of new antidepressants and each seems impelled to hold a conference to mark the event and to publish the papers as a book the following year. This volume has more to commend it than most of these. The contributors were drawn from no less than 19 countries in all parts of the world and so the contents, as befit a WHO publication, present a genuinely global view of the subject. There are well written chapters by authorities like Bunney, Klerman, Paykel and Weissman, but most are summaries of research or reviews that are published in more detail elsewhere. On the whole, therefore, the most interesting chapters to British readers are likely to be those from other parts of the world: Shinfuku's account of his research on involutional melancholia in Japan, Binitie's description of the clinical presentation of depression in Africans and Bagadia's account of the use of ECT in India, for example. But it is a book for browsing through, not for studying. Several chapters contain nothing of any substance and anyone wanting to familiarise themselves with current understanding of depressive illnesses would do better to read Paykel's *Handbook of Affective Disorders*.

RE KENDELL

Demyelinating Diseases: Basic and Clinical Electrophysiology (Advances in Neurology, Volume 31). Edited by Stephen G Waxman and J Murdoch Ritchie. (Pp 544; \$81.60.) New York: Raven Press, 1981.

This volume contains 27 chapters, largely consisting of reviews of recent advances in basic scientific studies of demyelination. Although the title of the book suggests that the contents refer to naturally occurring demyelinating disease, the majority of the chapters relate to studies of experimental demyelination in sub-human species, and not to multiple sclerosis itself. Indeed, those reviews concerned with multiple sclerosis contain little that is new, although they do provide convenient sources of information on the use of evoked potential analysis in the diagnosis of the disease, and of the pathology of the disease. Nonetheless, it must be admitted that these aspects are covered in more detail elsewhere. The strength of the book lies in the chapters in which the electrophysiology of conduction in normal myelinated and demyelinated axons are reviewed, particularly in the

chapters by Rasminsky and by Sears and Bostock. The presumed clinical correlations of these studies of the factors influencing conduction in demyelinated and remyelinating axons are explored both by these authors and by others in associated chapters in which the implications of this new understanding of the pathophysiology of demyelination are explored. Regan has examined the possible psychophysical tests that might be used to delineate visual and hearing disorders in patients with multiple sclerosis in a chapter which nicely complements that by Halliday on visual evoked responses in demyelinating disease. There are several somewhat inconclusive chapters on neuroelectric blocking factors and other circulating toxic factors which may or may not be important in symptomatic multiple sclerosis and reviews of ionophores, the distribution of sodium and potassium channels in myelinated nerve fibres and the pharmacological properties of these channels in nerve membranes. Kimura contributes an interesting chapter on refractory period analysis in nerve conduction studies of patients with the disease. However, these contributions are largely of theoretical interest. The last part of the book is particularly valuable since it consists of a group of chapters on the trophic interactions of neurones and an outstanding contribution by Robertson on membrane structure with special emphasis on the ultrastructural anatomy of transmembrane channels.

Altogether, this is a most stimulating and timely volume which will be read with great profit by all those concerned with the care and investigation of patients with multiple sclerosis.

M SWASH

Clinical Applications of Evoked Potentials in Neurology (Advances in Neurology, Volume 32). Edited by Jean Courjon, Francois Mauguere and Michel Revol (Pp 595; \$80.24.) New York: Raven Press, 1981.

This is a useful and up-to-date book comprising 69 fairly short chapters (averaging eight pages) by many and various authors, each chapter with its own references. The editors and many of the authors are French, but the predominant style is American English. Technical and scientific aspects are covered, but the main emphasis is clinical as the title implies.

The chapters are grouped and sub-grouped according to subject, so that in the section on visual evoked potentials (VEPs) there are groups of chapters dealing with the VEP in optic nerve lesions, in chiasmic and retrochiasmic lesions, on clinical applications in "Neuropaediatrics", and on clinical applications in encephalopathies, dementia and hereditary degenerative disease. Brainstem auditory evoked potentials and somatosensory evoked potentials are then similarly fully dealt with, and finally there are 21 chapters on various aspects of the clinical application of evoked potentials in multiple sclerosis, a major neurophysiological growth industry of the last decade. Thus there are on occasion several successive chapters dealing with almost the same subject, as viewed from various neurological centres; for example the last six chapters which all attempt to assess the value of follow-up evoked potential studies and their correlation (or lack of it) with clinical progress in multiple sclerosis. This duplication is not entirely useless, as it offers the reader an insight into the range of opinion extant. Some significant technical and methodological differences, too, are evidently not yet resolved; for example, whether the reference site for cervical spinal evoked potentials should be on or away from the head and the worth of foveal VEPs or the blin-

Inevitably in a book of this sort the quality of different contributions does vary, but on the whole the standard is high. The book is well-produced, as befits its price and the series it joins.

DN RUSHTON

Essentials of the Neurologic Examination (2nd ed). By Elliott L Mancall. (Pp 220; \$13.75.) Philadelphia: FA Davis & Co, 1981.

Well-thumbed first editions of Alpers have been in the pocket of many American undergraduates on elective period at King's College Hospital. Their outstanding performance may have been at least partly due to reading this book. It is undoubtedly among the best of the many American aids to develop clinical skills. The book first describes the basic examination of the nervous system in thirty-four pages followed by a clear, accurate and dogmatic account of the interpretation of neurological symptoms and signs. This can be heavy going, as for example in the table of

abnormal arm reflexes. I defy any English student, neurologist or professor to describe the Marinesco-Radovici, Marie-Foix, Dagnini, Mendel-Bechterew, Rosolimo, Hoffman, Tromner, Gordon, and Chaddock sign without recourse to the text. However this exemplifies the exact detail of Mancall's revision. The third section describes the topical diagnosis of neurologic disease—the competition here must be the superb account given in the various sections of Harrison's text book of Medicine. The book ends with a description of laboratory investigation, up to date and well-illustrated including many CT scans. Indeed the figures and illustrations throughout are excellent, well chosen and relevant. The book has not got the flair of Rubenstein and Wayne's Lecture Notes on clinical medicine, or the wisdom and style of Bickerstaff's Neurological Examination which must remain the outright winner. However Alpers and Mancall is a close second.

JD PARKES

The Cranial Nerves. Edited by M Samii and PJ Jannetta. (Pp 664; DM 180, US \$81.90.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1981.

This book consists of 89 contributions by 97 authors on some aspects of anatomy, physiology, pathology, clinical diagnosis and treatment of various disorders affecting the cranial nerves, originally presented as a symposium in Hanover in June 1980. The chapters vary in length from one to 24 pages and also show some variability in content, ranging from extensive personal experience or authoritative review to brief case report. The emphasis is on surgical treatment, and in particular the advances achieved in neurosurgery by increasing use of the operating microscope. Surgical topics emphasised are the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia and hemifacial spasm by decompression of vascular loops at the brainstem, but alternative destructive methods of treatment are also discussed. There are several contributions on the treatment of acoustic neuromas, comparing different surgical approaches, results of attempts to conserve facial nerve and also auditory nerve function, and describing methods of restoring facial movement when the nerve has been lost. There is a long detailed section with extensive bibliography on the functional anatomy of the trigeminal nerve and its central connections, and interesting sections on olfactory and gustatory testing. The book is slightly

marred in places by curious use of the English language, which is sometimes difficult to understand, and also by occasional typesetting errors, unidentified abbreviations and incomplete figure captions. However, the book contains much that will interest neurologists, neurosurgeons and allied disciplines, and is a useful statement of the present position in a rapidly changing field of surgery.

RD ILLINGWORTH

Rehabilitation of Patients with Schizophrenia and with Depressions. Edited by John K Wing, Paul Kielholz, Wilhelm Martin Zinn. (Pp 154; FR 34, DM 37.) Hans Bern: Huber Publishers, 1981.

In his Foreword the President of the International Rehabilitation Medicine Association affirms his Association's hope that this book will provide an exchange of information and inspiration between developed and developing countries.

It is a little book full of strange and striking contrasts. Wing Bennett and Leff expound in familiar terms the highly sophisticated state of the art of rehabilitating people with schizophrenia in Britain. Authors from WHO and Asia lament the formidable barriers to delivery of almost any form of treatment to people with depression. For example Wig and Murthy write from Chandigarh "Limitation of economic resources, lack of psychiatric trained personnel, a virtual absence of any form of organised psychiatric facilities for vast rural areas, prevalent ignorance and superstition about mental illness in general populations are some of the main problems in developing countries like India".

We are reminded more than once that Western models of caring systems don't transplant successfully to developing countries, because of cultural and other differences. Asuni from Ibadan describes some of these. Nigerian depressives are not treated like invalids but are expected to participate as much as possible in household chores and other community activities. The outdoor life, the extended family grouping, relative absence of loneliness, low level of competitive striving and general tolerance of failure all contribute to a very low suicide rate. ECT is used liberally and often requested and for lack of anaesthetists is usually given unmodified.

About £9 is a lot to pay for this paperback even though it is attractively printed and produced. What a pity there are so many spelling mistakes throughout and such quaint English in places. If it sells well

enough overseas to go into a second edition its readability could be improved by better proof reading and some judicious sub-editing.

ROGER MORGAN

New Perspectives in Cerebral Localization. Edited by Richard A Thompson and John R Green. (Pp 264; \$40.12.) New York: Raven Press, 1982.

Concepts of cerebral localisation have dominated thought on the functions of the cerebral cortex for generations. This volume reports the impact of the new techniques of neuroscience on the problems of cerebral localisation, as set forth in a symposium on the topic held in Phoenix and sponsored by the Barrow Neurological Foundation. Ten chapters, which presumably were lectures, deal with selected topics emphasising "recent developments and new information". Angevine and Smith discuss the "new anatomy" of the forebrain, as elucidated by the techniques of neuronal identification utilising horseradish peroxidase and labelled amino acids. Bizzi and his colleagues discuss central and peripheral mechanisms in motor control. Pollen and Ronner describe the role of the visual cortex in spatial pattern recognition. Merzenich looks at the organisation of the primate sensory forebrain in the light of the new information of multiple cortical sensory representation and parallel thalamocortical pathways, revealed by the modern anatomical and physiological techniques. Chiappa describes the localisation of visual, auditory and somatosensory evoked responses. Reivich reviews the use of cerebral blood flow and metabolic studies in cerebral localisation, while Raichle gives the early results of the use of positron emission tomography. Ojemann reviews the interrelation of language, memory and motor mechanisms in the human cortex and thalamus, based upon studies of the effects of stimulation at operation. Rasmussen discusses aspects of localisation as revealed by epileptic seizures, while Sweet reviews the cerebral localisation of pain. The work of many of these authors is already well known from their previous publications, and little new is produced in these review chapters. The volume will be a valuable record of the meeting which gave rise to the publication, but it is unlikely to prove of lasting value. So many of the topics under discussion are developing so rapidly that the information given here will soon need to be revised.

CD MARSDEN