which have not produced well, particularly those in chapter one on the skull. The illustrations are, however, clearly annotated and considerably enhance the book without interfering with the text. In particular I like the way the references were grouped at the end of each chapter, mention being made of them in the text against each pathological process discussed.

The chapter on congenital lesions commences with a good summary of the embryology of the nervous system and as with the layout of most of the chapters there are many tables comparing the radiological features (CT, isotope, angiography etc) of different investigations in different disease processes.

A particularly annoying feature of the book is that there are a large number of spelling mistakes, some of which occur even in the main headings, and one can only wonder whether the authors undertook any proof reading at all. Such an oversight would be very annoying and could well have detracted from an otherwise excellent volume, and I can only assume that if the authors revise this text they will correct these mistakes.

Despite these reservations I enjoyed the book immensely and thought that a lot of effort had been put into its preparation. I can thoroughly recommend it for anyone with an interest in modern Neuroradiological techniques, and it could well become one of the standard text books of the 1980's.

DPE KINGSLEY

The Biology of Anxiety. Edited by Roy J Mathew. (Pp 300; \$38.92.) New York: Brunner/Mazel Publishers, 1982.

Twenty years ago the thought of a psychiatric symposium entirely concerned with biological aspects of clinical anxiety would have been inconceivable. Anxiety had been firmly set in its place as a relatively minor disorder that was best studied by behavioural psychologists and psychotherapists. The true stuff of biologically orientated psychiatry would be found in the study of schizophrenia and the affective psychoses. The tide has turned—a little. This valuable book fills several of the gaps in the literature on anxiety, and, unlike many symposium publications, it has avoided the duplication of work that is described much better elsewhere. So instead of rusty accounts of peripheral catecholamines and the endocrinology of anxiety we read about the differentiation of anxiety from other states of arousal

(Lader), changes in cerebral blood flow in anxiety (Mathew and others), the status and significance of the anxiety prone personality (Carey and Herrenkohl), and the anti-anxiety effects of monoamine oxidase inhibitors (Nies and others), beta-blocking drugs (Pitts and Allen) and biofeedback (Rice and Blanchard) rather than the benzodiazepines. There are three terminal chapters on sleep which look a little out of place but as a whole the book succeeds in its aim of educating "the biologically orientated clinician who is interested in current research trends".

PETER TYRER

Psychiatric Aspects of Neurologic Disease Volume II (Seminars in Psychiatry series). Edited by D Frank Benson and Dietrich Blumer. (Pp 325; \$24.50; £16.20) New York: Grune and Stratton Inc. 1982.

In their introduction to the first volume (1977) the authors deplored the neglect of neuropsychiatry, particularly in their own country, sandwiched so it appeared, between the established psycho-analytical schools and the emergent behaviour therapies. The scene looks rosier now and a little of the credit must go to Benson and Blumer. Their team of authors, mostly north American with a strong New England bias, contributed chapters on frontal lobe function, temporal lobe epilepsy, and other favorite borderline topics. No attempt was made to be comprehensive. The second volume follows the same formula and is broadly complementary. There are chapters on epilepsy (3), dementia (4) and movement disorders (1) along with more specialised reviews on such diverse topics as the psychiatry of multiple sclerosis, and stuttering. Especially recommended are alcoholic dementia by Cutting, Goetz and Klawans on tardive dyskinesia and the editors on the psychiatric manifestations of epilepsy, the latter marred only by critical tunnel vision when contemplating the Bostonian revival of the concept of temporal lobe personality. The merit of multi-authorship, each expert addressing his chosen subject, is clear to see. The authors have remarked on its failing, the tendency to unevenness. Certainly the book is uneven, but less on account of stylistic variation, more because of choice of topic and allocation of space. As many pages are allowed for the episodic discontrol syndrome as are given to the whole subject of amnesia, which permits the former a detailed and scholarly review (more, some might say,

than the subject deserves), while the latter can only aim at a level that should prove more suitable for the specialist exam student. In the years between the volumes major text books on neuropsychiatry have appeared making such an approach appear more redundant than seemed the case in 1977. Future volumes might do better to concentrate on detailed reviews and highly selected topics, otherwise the price may come to seem increasingly less competitive.

BRIAN K TOONE

Topics in Child Neurology, Volume 2. Edited by Graham Wise, Michael E Blaw and Peter G Procopis. (Pp 257; £30.95.) Lancs: MTP Press Limited, 1983.

A wide variety of paediatric neurological subjects (intended I suspect for the general paediatrician and neurologist) are dealt with in this book. It is quite interesting in parts but probably fails to attract any specific readership.

The book starts well, with a well written chapter by David Clark on the personalities involved in the neuropathology of childhood. It is followed by good reviews of the antenatal diagnosis of Duchenne's muscular dystrophy and its natural history, and the promotion of ambulation by Victor Dubowitz and David Gardner-Medwin. There follow some chapters on epilepsy with a very good review of neuronal events underlying epileptogenesis by David Prince and evolution of the EEG in normal children by Eeg-Ologsson which would be of considerable interest to paediatric neurologists but not of much practical value to the general paediatrician. The chapter on normal EEGs however, may be of considerable value to those who run an EEG service which includes children. The Aicardi and Chevrie paper on the natural history of epilepsy in the first year of life is a very useful summary pointing particularly to the close relationship between infantile spasms and other forms of severe epilepsy occurring at that time. The chapter on anti-convulsant therapy is rather inadequate and poorly referenced. There then follows a series of papers on cerebral metabolism which although they contain useful information, fail to be critical enough for the specialist reader or a sufficient general interest for those whose major concern is practical management. The chapter on catecholamine metabolism by Segawa is a very useful summary of the subject, however.

There are some rather parochial chapters on learning disabilities which fail to

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analyse the neurological role in a critical fashion and are like a great deal of material which has been published on this subject. I suspect that Dr Rapin regrets the sentence "As far as etiology is concerned, I submit that etiologic considerations shed a little light on the pathogenesis of dyslexia". Jean Aicardi then produces a masterly review on the syndrome which bears his name and contains an interesting new statement that the visual outcome is reasonably good.

It is to be hoped that this review is available to paediatric neurologists although, of course, its interest to the general paediatrician is marginal. The book closes with a review of cerebral vascular disease in childhood by Werner Isler which is similar to his other publications on that subject and might have been helpfully expanded with a critical analysis of the treatments that are available.

The printing is uneven in both typescript and some of the EEG diagrams and there are quite a lot of spelling mistakes. I think it is an interesting book to be given, but is probably not going to provide £31.00 worth of value to any one readership nor of consistent lasting value to be purchased by a library.

BGR NEVILLE

Neurological Disorders in the Elderly.
Edited by FI Caird. (Pp 250; £14.50.)
Bristol: Wright PSG, 1982.

Everyone who deals with neurological illness in the elderly knows how difficult it is to diagnose and to manage. I looked forward to reading this book for guidance. Often I found it, but sometimes I did not. Some of the chapters have been written by neurologists or neurosurgeons, others by geriatricians. The former, in places, have not adapted their neurological framework to the particular needs of the elderly. The latter sometimes have neglected the neurology for the comprehensive framework of their usual approach to geriatric problems. In general, however, this should prove to be a useful benchmark for those interested in the topic.

An introductory chapter sets the scene by describing the epidemiology of neurological disorders in old age. Stroke and Parkinson's disease are given the prominence they deserve but, amazingly, senile dementia and Alzheimer's disease are not mentioned. Subsequent brief reviews of "age changes in the nervous system", and "the biochemistry of the aging brain" goes some way to redressing this

balance. However, not a single clinical chapter is devoted to the problem of senile dementia. This curious philosophy is reminiscent of the common statement that "the neurological examination was normal, but the patient showed severe loss of memory". Strokes, however, are given their due. There are separate chapters on cerebral blood flow, the pathology of cerebrovascular disease, clinical features of stroke, and management of the elderly patient with stroke. Marshall crisply dissects out what is important about cerebral blood flow in aging, senile dementia, and multi-infarct dementia. He finds no good evidence for the widespread use of cerebral vasodilators. The chapter on the pathology of cerebrovascular disease is comprehensive, and well illustrated. However, it does not mention congophilic angiography or Binswanger's disease. The chapter on the clinical features of stroke leaves much unsaid. It starts with a table of those traditional symptoms and signs said to distinguish between the various pathological causes of stroke, but gives no discussion of the impact of CT scanning which has highlighted clinical inaccuracy. Little emphasis is given to the clinical differences between the many types of lacunar strokes, major cerebral arterial occlusions, and watershed infarcts. However, there are useful discussions on the effect of stroke on visuospatial function, sphincter behaviour, emotions and mood. I turned to the chapter on "The management of the elderly patient with stroke" with particular interest. Its first sentence was suitably provocative—"Stroke is a nightmare neurological disorder". A preliminary review of the problems concludes that "if the average annual percentage increase in bed occupancy experienced by stroke patients during the past decade is projected and present policies regarding hospital admission, discharge and management of stroke remain the same, patients with stroke will occupy no less than 18% of all available bed days by the end of this century". There follows a critical review of "Stroke Units". The conclusion is that "changing the organisation of stroke care to provide intensive care equipment, facilities and staffing, has no impact on overall mortality during the immediate period following onset". As a result, emphasis has switched to intensive rehabilitation of stroke victims. However, no definite conclusion emerges as to the value of "Stroke Rehabilitation Units", although there is a strong hint that a higher proportion of patients managed through a Stroke Unit end up independent, in com-

parison to stroke survivors passing through routine medical care. With this in mind, attention is rightly given to the problems of selection of patients for Stroke Rehabilitation Units, and research workers are urged to define criteria which will predict the best use of such resources. Nevertheless, despite our best efforts, a large proportion of those surviving stroke are left disabled. Much time has to be devoted to the care and placement of these individuals and, here, the strength of the multi-disciplinary team is correctly emphasised.

The chapter on "Parkinsonism and related disorders" provides mixed fare. It is claimed that "senile Parkinsonism" has a different clinical picture from the classic disorder, including frequent co-existence of senile or essential tremor. The fact that one of the characteristics of senile Parkinsonism is said to be early and progressive dementia suggests some confusion with other degenerative brain disease. The pathology of Parkinson's disease is discussed without reference to the Lewy body. It is claimed that to commence levodopa treatment alone, without the use of a peripheral dopa-decarboxylase inhibitor, may cause less serious neuropsychiatric complications, and even that dementia is improved by such treatment, at least initially. Few neurologists would agree with many of these statements and, unfortunately, the critical reference to which one is referred for their justification is missing. There is a separate chapter on "Disorders of balance" by Isaacs, which is a delight. This common pathology of old people is analysed in terms of disorder physiology, and the complex subject is logically dissected and made understandable. The chapter on epilepsy by Hildick-Smith is comprehensive and provides excellent advice on the investigation of this problem in the elderly. However, the chapter on "Neuropathies and myopathies" is not directed particularly to these problems of old age. There are other good chapters on "Disorders of the autonomic nervous system" (Exton-Smith), with particular emphasis on the important problems of accidental hypothermia, "Head injuries" (Jennett), "Spinal lesions" (Garfield), and "Other neurosurgical problems" (Turner and Caird). The section on the significance and management of cervical spondylosis is particularly helpful.

Two of the more important chapters of this book are those on "Examination of the nervous system" and "Investigation of neurological disorders" as applied to old people. These are areas of particular