Book reviews

Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome Volume 35 of Advances in Neurology. Edited by Arnold J Friedhoff and Thomas N Chase. (Pp 478; \$58.90.) New York, Raven Press. 1982.

This volume contains the proceedings of the 1981 New York symposium on Tourette syndrome. The 67 papers are organised into 10 main sections, clinical and historical over-view, neuro-anatomy and neuropathology, neurophysiology, biochemistry, animal models, genetics, epidemiology and population studies, psychology and psychiatry, neurology and speech pathology, and clinical pharmacology. Despite a total of 444 pages plus index written by a total of 148 contributors, the nature and origin of Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome remain unknown, the pathology is virtually non-existent and any relevant neurochemistry at best fragmentary. Selective reading is therefore required. The best section in the book is the introduction with the re-appearance of Murray's delightful essay on Samuel Johnson's movement disorder and also the first English translation of Gilles de la Tourette on Tourette's syndrome. The next section, that on neuro-anatomy and neuropathology reviews different aspects of monoamine and peptide systems in the brain but contains little of direct relevance to the book's title, apart from Richardson's review of two negative necropsies on ticquers. Peptides, cerebrospinal fluid amine metabolites, and the substantia nigra all appear in the 80 pages on biochemistry, again usually without direct relevance to Tourette's syndrome. The animal models of neuropsychiatric disorder in rats, mice, rabbits, hamsters, guinea-pigs and the like, show enormous ingenuity but rarely mimic Dr Samuel Johnson's gesticulations, tics, or compulsive behaviour.

The genetic and epidemiological data are of major interest with detailed information on the very high frequency of ticquers in different populations. Perhaps it is surprising that haloperidol rather than vital energy is used to treat Chinese patients, but not surprising that HLA typing in American patients is no different from that in American non-ticquers. In contrast to this brief section those on psychology, psychiatry, language and clinical pharmacology are a little disappointing. The use of jargon and over-classification can be misleading as when analytical procedures are used to classify vocal tics into eleven different categories according to specific

definition by trained transcribers with an interexaminer reliability of $F = 0.81$ followed by 2-way Anovas with blocking for subject pairs to compute F ratios for comparing the mean Z scores on each language function. This is incomprehensible as well as meaningless. It is impossible to find out whether clonidine is really useful or not or whether haloperidol does possess definite advantages over other neuroleptics.

This is the second major work on Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome to appear in 4 years, the first edited by the Shapiros, Bruun, and Sweet. Although de la Tourette recognised that the illness was a movement disorder, not a form of madness or insanity, the wealth of neuroscience in this book contributes little to understanding the syndrome. To be more than a record the publication of conference proceedings needs more careful selection, more detailed editorship and more critical comment than appear here.

JD PARKES

Concepts in Pediatric Neurosurgery, Vols 1 and 2. *The American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery.* (Pp 222; SFr 190, DM 228, \$114.00 each.) Basel: S Karger AG, 1982.

These two volumes are the first of a continuing series to provide a forum for those who can contribute to the burgeoning speciality of paediatric neurosurgery. Although, no doubt, many of the chapters are derived from recently published papers, they provide under the heading of "Concepts" more considered accounts of past experience and a more sober review of present progress than one obtains in the usual proceedings or symposiums which often masquerade as a new book.

In such a rapidly developing field, it is extremely important for those fortunate enough to be acquiring extensive experience to communicate this to others. Thus in these volumes there are chapters on particular tumours (craniopharyngioma, medulloblastoma etc.) on the value of particular investigative procedures (metrizamide CT cisternography, telimetric pressure measurements) on particular treatment methods (cutaneous third ventriculostomy etc) while other chapters provide reviews of broader subjects such as a comparison of different methods of tumour treatment, neurosurgical management of myelomeningocele, management of urinary incontinence; a chapter worthy of special mention is a summary of papovaviruses and the causation of brain

tumours in childhood.

These volumes are much recommended to all neurosurgeons who wish to be acquainted with the "state of play" in paediatric neurosurgery. The editors are, however, very naive if they believe, as they suggest in their preface to volume 2, that it may be "possible for paediatric neurosurgeons throughout the entire world to provide their knowledge and care to the benefit of all children". At least 1000 million of the world's population are provided with very few neurosurgeons (for the treatment of adults and children)—about 1% of the proportion serving the USA. Paediatric neurosurgery must have a very low priority in those areas.

KENNETH TILL

Maturation and Development. Biological and Psychological Perspectives. Edited by Kevin J Connolly and Heinz FR Prechtl. (Pp 326; £15.00.) London: Spastics International Medical Publications, 1981.

The concepts of development of the maturation, although seemingly straightforward, have proved problematic in practice. As Dr Ronnie Mac Keith, to whom this set of essays is dedicated, often pointed out, the terms tend to be used interchangeably as both empirical descriptors and as explanatory theoretical constructs—a dangerous mixture as the outmoded concepts of instinct and drive showed. Moreover, as explanations the terms tend to assume more knowledge on brain-behaviour relationships than actually exists. I rather doubt that Ronnie would have been satisfied by the answers provided in this book although, certainly, he would have been pleased that the topic has been given a critical scrutiny. The volume is too lacking in integration to be wholly satisfying but it contains much of interest and value. Thus, Polani gives an authoritative and readable account of chromosomal mechanisms and developmental anomalies, van Hof succinctly discusses developmental issues relevant to the neural mechanisms underlying recovery from brain damage, and Judy Dunn provides a brief but thoughtful discussion of maturation in relation to early social development—to give three rather different examples. The main weakness in the book concerns the psychological implications of the biological findings. Thus, little is said on brain-behaviour relationships, or on the effects of reaching puberty early or late or on some of the conditions (such as enuresis) in which