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 Precht. (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

concepts of "maturational delay" are most often invoked. Ronnie would have been especially disappointed by the last of these omissions but perhaps it was not discussed because the queries he raised have yet to be answered and because there is little new to report. The book deserves to be widely read as much for the implicit unanswered questions that arise, as for the wealth of factual information it provides.

MICHAEL RUTTER

Low Back Pain—Assessment and Management. By Dan M Spengler. (Pp 160; \$24.00; £16.00.) New York: Grune and Stratton Inc. 1982.

There are too many books on backache which simply re-write standard teaching and it is a pleasure to find an exception. Most books start with anatomy and disease and proceed to medical technology. Spengler starts with the patient and his pain and proceeds to clinical decision making and problem solving, based on the evaluation of the whole patient. The medical technologist looking for the latest "up-to-date" treatment for backache may be disappointed and this is not a book for orthopaedic surgeons preparing for an exam. It is, however, the thoughtful distillation of long experience of dealing with the failures of conventional medical treatment for backache and contains many apparently simple but fundamental concepts of how to treat patients rather than spines. It meets its claim of being clear, short and easily read—£16 and two hours. There are a few minor criticisms—the MMPI is a poor form of routine psychological assessment and some of the radiographs are not clear on reproduction—but the whole book is well-planned, balanced and well produced. I would unreservedly recommend this book to everyone who recognises—and even more strongly to those who fail to recognise—that their treatment of low back pain needs to be improved.

G WADDELL

Typical and Atypical Antidepressants. Clinical Practice. Edited by E Costa, Giorgio Racagni. (Pp 400; \$53.72.) New York, Raven Press: 1982.

Although there is no evidence that any advance has been made to improve the efficacy of antidepressant drugs since they were first introduced in 1960 there is no doubt that the newer drugs represent some

advance in terms of selectivity and frequency of unwanted effects. What has also interested psychopharmacologists is the great variation in pharmacological effects between the new antidepressants. As yet there is no satisfactory correlation between their clinical effects and pharmacological actions but if it can be demonstrated that they are effective antidepressants it shows that the old catecholamine hypothesis of affective disorders is untenable. In this volume there is undeniable evidence that several of the newer drugs are highly effective antidepressants, including bupropion, zimelidine, trazodone and mianserin. It is also clear that several other drugs have interesting pharmacological effects consistent with their use of antidepressants but their clinical efficacy is still not proven fully. These drugs include clovoxamine, sulpiride, viloxazine and amoxapine. The book is a companion text to volume 31 of the series; this is concerned primarily with the mechanisms of action of antidepressants.

Although there is no common theme to the book and a certain amount of overlap between the individual contributions the work described is right up to date and will be important reading for research workers in the antidepressant field. Neuroendocrine aspects of depression are discussed in several chapters and illustrate the importance of this productive field of enquiry.

PETER TYRER

Manter and Gatz's Essentials of Clinical Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology. Ed 6. By Sid Gilman and Sarah S Winans. (Pp 218; \$16.25.) Philadelphia: FA Davis Company: 1982.

Books of neuroanatomy have an unrivalled reputation for their ability to bore. This unfortunate and occasionally undeserved slur probably derives from those drab 2nd MB texts we all endured which provided a vast quantity of facts, often ill-digested, and always apparently divorced from their functional and clinical contexts. Attempts to marry anatomy with its related subjects certainly lighten this burden.

Earlier editions of *Manter & Gatz* were eminently digestible, but were so sparing of detail as to be of limited value. This sixth edition is written by Sid Gilman (well known to the British neurologists who have had associations with the Denny-Brown school in Boston) and Sarah Winans, an anatomist working in the same school of Medicine in Michigan. It is altogether a more substantial work than its early pre-

decessors. The anatomy is comprehensive and provides satisfying detail for both the neuroanatomy student and the clinician. Although it remains a predominantly anatomical text, it includes adequate descriptions of related physiology, and where relevant, clinical topics are explained in brief vignettes. Some of these are masterpieces of succinct, accurate and illuminating writing.

The clinical applications of anatomy and physiology are explained for example in tests of vestibular function, visual fixation and muscle stretch reflexes. The correlations of syndromes with disturbed anatomy and physiology are shown in spinal cord lesions, and in the brain stem infarcts which spawn so many eponyms. These are all described with commendable clarity and brevity. A highlight of the book is a multitude of superb, simple, line diagrams and figures, each carefully conceived and labelled.

Any subject with such wide ramifications into preclinical and clinical disciplines poses for the author a dilemma of achieving a judicious balance. To keep the text to a manageable length it is inevitable that some sections will receive but cursory mention: neurotransmitters and electrophysiology in this instance. But this is not criticism. The book takes as its expressed aim "providing a short but comprehensive survey of the human nervous system... written chiefly for the beginning student of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology", and in this aim it succeeds admirably. I would strongly recommend this book both to undergraduates and to postgraduates training in clinical neurology and neurosurgery.

JMS PEARCE