aging in a broad sense. The majority of the contributions represent studies of Alzheimer's disease, or senile dementia of the Alzheimer type, and several tackle this problem by considering the nature of aging itself. Many of the papers consist only of pilot studies or relatively preliminary observations and it is doubtful whether these will see the light of day as publications in more complete form elsewhere. However, there is much of interest that will stimulate other research laboratories, and indeed clinicians, in their work. The book begins with challenging reviews of the methodology and interpretation of longitudinal studies of the brain function in aging people. Patrick Rabbitt, in particular, provides a cogent discussion of the pitfalls both of methodology and interpretation of such studies. Drachman provides a critical discussion of the relation of normal aging to dementia, an area in which definitions are loose and speculation rife. Terry and Davies provide a review of recent morphological and biochemical aspects of Alzheimer's disease, a topic taken up later in the book by Bowen and colleagues among others. There are a number of papers on regional cerebral metabolism using PET scanning and many reports of studies of choline, cholinergic synaptic transmission, lecithin and choline pharmacological studies, and discussions of other neurotransmitter and neuronal aspect of brain aging, mostly in the rat. In summary, this volume is a timely addition to the literature on aging of the brain, in all its aspects.

MICHAEL SWASH

Epilepsy and Motor System. Edited by E-J Speckmann and CE Elger. (Pp 346; £22.50.) Munich: Urban & Schwarzenberg, 1983.

The usual argument for publication of conference proceedings is that they provide a convenient and easily accessible collection of articles on a related topic. However, it is far too common these days for contributors to symposia to use conference proceedings as an opportunity to recycle old review articles, or to present data which is not completed to a stage satisfactory for publication in a scientific journal. This is because the articles usually are not edited with sufficient rigour, and the experimental details described so scantily, that critical evaluation of the findings is impossible. In fact, of course, the most important feature of a conference is not the individual contributions, but the ability of the participants to

discuss their work both publicly, in the lecture hall, and privately, in the local bars.

This book, which contains the proceedings of a symposium held in Münster at the end of 1981, is in the usual tradition of conference publications. There are several short review chapters, some of which bear strong resemblances to other recent articles by the same authors, and a number of shorter contributions illustrating recent experimental investigations with various animal models of epilepsy, and with some human clinical data. It is a useful compilation of data mainly from scientists in Northern Europe, but without any printed discussion or comment after each chapter, the contributions lack any of the impact there may have been at the conference itself.

The papers are typed, frequently misspelt, and in some instances, grammatical minefields. At £22.50 for a small paperback book, I cannot recommend it with any honesty.

JOHN ROTHWELL

Treatment and Management in Adult Psychiatry. Edited by GE Berrios and JH Dowson. (Pp 502; £18.50.) London: Bailliere Tindall, 1983.

This book derives largely from the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Cambridge and has 14 authors. The design, based on "Treatment" (12 chapters) and "Management" (14 chapters) is unusual. "Treatment" refers to "Treatment Methods which are available to the Psychiatrist", while "Management" considers "The appropriate interventions for the various psychiatric syndromes". Clearly, there are opportunities and risk of overlaps. In the treatment section there is an outstanding review of the antischizophrenic drugs by Angus Mackay, and the other sections covering, broadly, psychopharmacology and psychological treatments are all competent. Only Dr Dowson, writing on group psychotherapy, allows himself the luxury of writing from his own direct experience. It makes for refreshing and controversial reading.

The chapters on management cover the common psychiatric conditions. There is considerable coverage of the "psychosomatic field". These are more uneven, perhaps because of the constraints of space. Surprisingly, considering its provenance, there is no mention of the "Management" or "Treatment" of psychiatric disorders in the puerperium.

It is also rather surprising, in a book on management, that there is little mention of the social and organisational structure of hospitals and other treatment facilities and the training and involvement of non-medical staff. Nevertheless, this is an informative and competent book, with extensive and up to date references for further reading.

JLT BIRLEY

Depressive Disorders in Different Cultures. Report on the WHO Collaborative Study on Standardised Assessment of Depressive Disorders. (Pp 150; Sw Fr 17.00.) Geneva: World Health Organization, 1983.

The World Health Organization is carrying out a series of studies into the epidemiology and clinical characteristics of psychiatric disorders. The International Pilot Study of Schizophrenia has been concerned in the development of standardised methods of assessing symptomatology, the application of such methods in different cultures and by psychiatrists from different backgrounds, and the study of the clinical characteristics and frequency of the disorder in widely different cultures. Such research not only gives information on the extent of mental health morbidity, but may give clues on the aetiology of disorders, for certain patterns of distribution favour some explanations cause more than others.

The present volume concerns the development of methods for the Standardized Assessment of Depressive Disorders (or SADD) in a variety of different countries, namely Switzerland, Canada, Japan and Iran. The procedure of assessing depressive syndromes was carried out in two parts; first, a screening instrument was administered which showed only 9.6% false positives; and then SADD itself was administered. Both instruments were shown to be capable of being used in different cultures and languages, and in the case of SADD, with an acceptable degree of reliability. Depressed patients from the centres showed very similar symptomatology. The authors could not satisfactorily divide the patients into "endogenous" and "psychogenic" depression and found a major overlap in symptomatology. As a consequence, they tend to favour the Continuum model in the classification of depressive disorders.

Further work is planned to follow patients and study the course outcome and response to treatment of depressive disorders in the different countries. The

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epidemiology of depressive disorders is also to be studied and in some centres, the work will be linked with a more detailed study of a particular aspect of depressive illness for example, biological changes.

An important aspect of the book is that full details of the screening schedule and of SADD are given. It would be of great interest to know how these methods of assessing depressive symptomatology compare with the "present state examination"¹ and the "general health questionnaire"² respectively, both of which have been used in many countries and languages.

RHS MINDHAM

References

- ¹ Wing JK, Birley JLT, Cooper JE, Graham P, Isaacs AD. Reliability of a procedure for measuring and classifying "Present Psychiatric State". *Br J Psychiatry* 1967; **113**:499-515.
- ² Goldberg D. Detecting Psychiatric Illness by Questionnaire. *Maudsley Monograph* 22, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1972.

Essentials of Neurology (5th edition). By Sir John Walton. (Pp 488; £10.95 (paperback).) London, Pitman Books Ltd, 1982.

Receipt of the latest edition of this excellent work precipitated a moment of nostalgia: a battered second edition, which still lingers on my shelves, had steered me through the membership examination.

Long experiences of teaching, clarity of thought and terse prose make it possible for the author to encompass all the basic ingredients of clinical neurology in an easily readable form. Although the text has been thoroughly revised to omit outdated material and to include the advances neurology has seen during the past five years, the basic format remains unchanged. Introductory chapters deal with symptoms, signs and investigations, the second section adopts a pathophysiological approach (consciousness, the mind, speech, special senses, motor, sensory and autonomic systems) and there follows an account of individual diseases set out in traditional fashion (hereditary, degenerative etc.). The treatment available for all forms of neurological disease is dealt with separately in a final chapter. Newcomers might prefer to learn about therapy as they are introduced to individual diseases but the "outline" of treatment given here avoids the repetition

inherent in this approach.

Although every page is crammed with facts the text is easy to follow and stimulates interest: ideal for those postgraduates engaged in their higher examinations and for the more enthusiastic medical student.

Criticisms? On page 68 the publishers have a CT scan, (an invention of Godfrey rather than Geoffrey Hounsfield), upside down: the haematoma becomes left parietal rather than right frontal!

JEFFREY GAWLER

Symptomatic Affective Disorders. By FA Whitlock. (Pp 218; \$24.00.) New York: Academic Press, 1983.

Both depressive and manic disorders can be precipitated by physical illness or by drug treatment. This, now anodyne, fact has not been followed up by researchers as energetically as many of the other pathways of biological psychiatry. Professor Whitlock tries to put the record straight and reminds us of the implications of this interaction between medicine, pharmacology and psychiatry by reviewing the world literature on the topic. He does this well and highlights our deficiencies in knowledge as well as the more positive impact of findings such as the precipitation of depressive illness by treatment of hypertension with reserpine. Thus, for example, although most clinicians are aware that infectious disease very commonly precipitates psychiatric disturbance there is hardly an investigation worthy of the name that examines this issue.

The major methodological problem encountered in these enquiries is the impossibility of deciding whether a temporal association between physical and psychiatric illness is a chance finding, a casual link or a non-specific triggering effect. Despite this, Whitlock is able to conclude that affective illness occurring in the setting of organic brain damage is usually a direct consequence of the brain disease, and that drug-induced depression and mania mainly occurs in subjects with a constitutional predisposition to affective disorders. He ends the book by making a plea for improved observation and precision in recording affective symptoms in physical illness, the need for which is reinforced by the uncritical and often shoddy conclusions made by workers in this field. There is an extensive list of references but few from authors whose native tongue is not English. The book can be strongly recommended as

a mandatory source for those who wish to know more about the relationship between physical and psychiatric illness.

PETER TYRER

Neuroleptics: Neurochemical, Behavioural and Clinical Perspectives. (Central Nervous System Pharmacology). Edited by Joseph T Coyle and SJ Enna. (Pp 341; \$68.20.) New York: Raven Press, 1983.

Neuroleptics have been important drugs in psychiatry and neurology for 30 years. Much has been learnt about their neurochemical, behavioural and clinical aspects. Quite simply, this book is the best up-to-date overview of our knowledge of these drugs. The book is multi-authored but has been meticulously edited as, unusual in multi-authored books, the chapters are uniformly informative, well written and clear. Each chapter briefly reviews the topic historically, details the current state of the art and then gives pointers to the future. The range of the book is commendably wide, dealing with the clinical use in psychotic and neurological disorders, the side-effects, in particular, tardive dyskinesia, behavioural and biochemical effects and with the complicated issue of receptor interactions. The final chapter critically discusses the dopamine hypothesis of schizophrenia, charting a well-sounded course between the Scylla of heralding an immediate breakthrough and the Charybdis of discounting the possibility of any imminent progress in this area. The book can be thoroughly recommended as the best text on neuroleptics extant.

MH LADER

Essential Neurology (2nd) (A Concise Textbook). By William Pryse-Phillips and TJ Murray. (Pp 714; \$32.50, paperback.) New York: Medical Examination Publishing Co Inc, 1982.

Travelling from Hamilton, Ontario to St John's, Newfoundland was a particularly appropriate time to review this general neurology textbook. Appropriate because the journey takes several days (unless one makes the mistake of going by air rather than by the far more interesting alternative of train, extraordinarily cheap ferries, and bus) and this book is quite a long read, and appropriate because one passes through the backyard of one author before arriving