other aspects of higher mental function, perception and effect. The hemisphere dominant for language operates in an analytical and sequential mode; the non-dominant hemisphere is holistic and synthetic. Recognition of these differences has prompted a substantial body of psychiatric research. An early paper by one of the conference editors, Pierre Flor-Henry, focused attention on the psychoses, and here by and large, is where it has remained. In that study of psychotic epilepsies, a constellation of clinical phenomena not dissimilar from schizophrenia was found to be associated with epileptic foci in the left hemisphere; less obviously, affective symptomatology was linked with right hemisphere foci. Although this analysis and interpretation of data was not without its critics, it massively influenced subsequent research; confirmation flowed in from a variety of sources.

Psychiatry, however, was never likely to be so simple. The passage of time and the scepticism of unsympathetic reviewers has dealt harshly with laterality theory; but if some of the old certainty has departed, the uncommitted reader should welcome the more critical and objective mood of the Canadian meeting. Studies in affective disorders and schizophrenia again predominate and neuropsychology and psychophysiology each account for a third of the space; but work on personality disorder, neurosis and alcoholism is presented and there are useful chapters on CT scanning techniques, PET and cerebral circulation. The quality of contributions varies considerably and some of the text is slackly edited. Few of the papers contain summaries, a crucial omission in so technical an area. Indeed this is very much a workshop book for the cognocenti and definitely not for those seeking an introduction to the subject. The former, those at least who failed to make the journey to Banff, may feel that the opportunity to keep abreast of a tantalisingly difficult subject justifies the not inconsiderable price of the book.

BK TOOME


Unlike many radiological textbooks, this is a serious work, for which the author is to be highly commended. Although amply and informatively illustrated, it is far more than an atlas. Major chapters are devoted to focal and diffuse parenchymal infections, infection in hosts with compromised immunity, and to acute meningitis. The first of these is excellent, including extensive references; however, I remain unconvinced by the contradictory arguments adduced for the radiological differentiation of cerebritis and abscess.

The book's balance is distorted by epidemiological accident: British readers will find it odd that cystercerosis merits considerably greater space than tuberculosis, which is much commoner worldwide. Indeed, some of the statements about the latter (rarity of brain stem lesions; frequency of calcium deposition) suggest very limited direct experience. The same is true of cerebral malaria and hydatid disease (illustrated by one markedly atypical example). Omission of demyelinating disease of unknown aetiology in a text on central nervous system inflammations may also reflect the low incidence of multiple sclerosis in northern California. However, discussion of these conditions would have been more germane than the extended explanation of magnetic resonance imaging which dominates the introductory chapter.

Dr Enzmann's writing is uneven, but quintessentially American: punchy and ponderous by turns; fortunately, the former tone predominates. The illustrations are generally excellent, although I was not always certain that the text referred to the correct figure; I found only one inverted image. The bibliography is splendid, but the index poor: as a single example, papovavirus, mentioned on pages 130 and 289, fails to appear in it.

Only one further geographical-imposed drawback restrains me from giving this handsome publication the highest recommendation: the exchange rate, which currently inflates its price to almost £50.

IVAN MOSELEY


Neurological Examination of Children by the late Richmond Paine and Thomas Oppé seemed to be one of those timeless masterpieces, that acted as a guide as well as a bible to trainee paediatricians and trainee neurologists. The value of that text has been beyond dispute and must surely have lead Spastics International Medical Publications towards commissioning a new version of this book some 17 years after the original appeared.

The new title Neurological Evaluation of Infants and Children differs slightly but significantly from the former. The authors of this book, Henry Baird and Eleanor Gordon, hail from Philadelphia. The difference in title is probably not purely of semantic significance but reflects a newer approach that has evolved over the last decade to a child with a suspected neurological disorder.

The book is divided into 11 chapters, each of which have comprehensive discussions in which attempts are made to relate the clinical phenomena under discussion to specific disease states. Illustrations are almost exclusively line drawings which at times are often rather poor representations of true clinical material. Furthermore, the comments on specific disease states; at times are inaccurate, sometimes too brief to be instructive and must inevitably lead to some confusion in the minds of those with lesser experience. There are quite a large number of typographical, grammatical and spelling errors within the book.

But in spite of these reservations it must surely be important to consider the book as a whole. It is the opinion of this reviewer that like its predecessor it is a vital and valuable book which would be welcomed to at least any department of paediatrics or neurology. The text that is being presented should be of interest and value to a very wide readership. For the paediatrician it provides immense detail in terms of neurological function, while to the neurologist a great deal in the way in which a child with a neurological dysfunction differs from an adult. For students of either these two specialties is a most worthy introduction to the subject. But more than this it should be recommended reading to any medical student. Further, it should be possible to provide a valuable service to members of other professions allied to medicine—physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and many other similar professions.

The authors deserve to be congratulated and also thanked for the valuable service that they have rendered.

GWILYM HOSKING