correct. Certainly the sodium pump and myelin thickness are related to these, but not quite so directly as implied. I then realised that I had been misled by the title of the book to expect a discussion on the basic sciences relevant to clinical neurology. In fact there is little physiology and less anatomy. A future edition could profitably expand the brief statement on neuronal migration. The strength of the book is in its concise accounts of neuropathological mechanisms and the disturbances of function due to specified lesions of the human nervous system. As an account of disordered function made apparent through clinical signs and symptoms, it is superb and I have not read a better. Sir John has a gift for extracting the essence of a clinical problem and at the same time adding the illuminating observation of an experienced clinician. The proposed pathophysiological mechanisms are generally accepted. One might have added to the descriptions of causalgia and paraesthesias some description of the probable mechanisms. Some discussions on the possible causes of syringomyelia would be appropriate and the account of motor control has a somewhat old-fashioned air. Defects are not enough to raise the intercranial (sic) pressure listed in the index. This is a book to be recommended for those who already have a little knowledge of neurobiology and the clinical signs of neurological disease. If I was recommending a reading list for a self-tutored neurology registrar I would start with Gordon Holmes' "Introduction" and Draper's "Lecture Notes", follow with this book, and go on to Victor and Adams' "Principles". After that he should be ready for the major Walton opera. For the appropriate stage of training this new book, derived from the Neurology section of a volume on Pathophysiology of International Textbook of Medicine is perfectly judged (and remarkably cheap).

JA SIMPSON

Neurosurgical Management for the House Officer. By Allan H Friedman and Robert H Wilkins. (Pp 169; £6.75.) London: Williams & Wilkins, 1984.

The 165 pages of this pocket sized book are packed with information which is pertinent, contemporary, suitably referenced and usefully tabulated. It is difficult to take issue with the substance of any of the 15 chapters. Indeed, a house officer thus equipped would be a most effective and thoroughly competent practitioner. That

said, this reviewer is in some doubt whether the manner in which this information is presented and displayed is conducive to its learning.

The text is printed in an unarresting type face; and the format is rigorously subsectioned and tediously repetitive. Also, the prose is dry and borders on the telegraphic. In short, it is not easy to digest. These detractions are compounded by illustrations that sometimes are carelessly drawn, frequently use lettering no more than 1.5 mm in size and occasionally are, in parts, frankly illegible. If the reasons for this utilitarian production are cost, this could be false economy. The market is there, but it may not be captured by such an unstimulating—though scientifically sound—product.

RF GLEDHILL

Monographs in Ophthalmology Series. The Visual System in Myelin Disorders. Edited by A Neetens, A Lowenthal, JJ Martin. (Pp 518; £57.25.) The Hague: Dr. W. Junk BV, 1984.

There are 61 papers in this book from 54 authors distinguished in their own field. The editors intended each contribution to give a "state of the art" so as to provide "clear information to both the ophthalmologist and the neurologist to stimulate mutual interest and to lead to inter-related contributions". Although many authors have attempted to cover the whole spectrum of myelin disorders inevitably the majority of material deals with multiple sclerosis. The editors' overall view of the subject has an interesting historical introduction including the clinical details of the first reported case of multiple sclerosis in the autobiography of Augustus d'Este who was grandson of George III, and complained of blurred vision, double vision, numbness, weak legs, and sphincter disturbance. The remainder of this introduction which is the single, largest contribution to the book, reviews other aspects of recent advances in the field which are subsequently covered in more detail by other authors.

The book is divided into four main sections, myelin and physiological myelination, general physio-pathology of myelin disorders, human and animal myelin disorders, and treatment and prevention of disorders of myelin. The quality of papers is variable and in general the clinical papers provide the most useful subject review.

In the basic science sections the material

is often inappropriate to the knowledge of general interests of neurologists or ophthalmologists. For example, one and a half pages and two references on enzymology, metabolism and turnover of myelin is too succinct to provide a useful introduction to this field. The most useful sections include those on the value of contrast sensitivity studies and visual psychophysical tests in demyelinating disease although it is unfortunate that contrast sensitivity function has been abbreviated CSF. There are useful contributions on chiasmal and post-chiasmal involvement, nystagmus and multiple sclerosis, imaging techniques, and technical aspects of the recording of eye movements and extra-ocular muscle EMG.

In general this book tries to cover too wide a field. The basic science sections do not consistently provide information at the level appropriate to clinical neurologists and ophthalmologists. This is disappointing as this juxtaposition of basic and clinical science has been very successful in other recently published neuro-ophthalmology text books. The clinical sections would undoubtedly be of value to neurologists, many being comprehensive and well referenced.

CJK ELLIS

Jelliffe: American Psychoanalyst and Physician. By John C Burnham and His Correspondence with Sigmund Freud and C.G. Jung. Edited by William McGuire. (Pp 324; £17.00.) London: University of Chicago Press, 1983.

Anyone researching into the history of neuropsychiatry will know of Smith Elly Jelliffe (1866-1945) and of the strange combination of neurology and homespun psychoanalysis contained in his writings.

The first section of Professor Burnham's book attempts to explain this admixture. Jelliffe comes across as a selfmade polymath, of the American variety, who administered well his erudition. He is charitably described as a "broker" or "mediator" of ideas and the point is made that he was not an original or creative scientist. This is certainly the unconvincing figure he cuts to those on this side of the Atlantic. It would be nearer the mark to say that he was a hard working medical journalist, something of a polyglot who assiduously courted his European connections. His erudition, patchy as it was, plugged a glaring gap in the parochial medical environment of his period and contributed in no small measure to his success.