

of relevance to most practicing psychiatrists such as "The Alcoholic Doctor" (Murray)—a fate which overtakes many of our colleagues; "Exhibitionism: An eclectic approach to management" (Rooth)—this being the most commonly committed sexually-related crime; "Management of the acutely disturbed patient on the General Ward" (Pfeiffer)—of particular interest to those of us working in general hospital units; "Management problems in psychogeriatrics" (Pitt)—the fastest growing speciality in medicine.

More recondite perhaps, but nevertheless fascinating are: "The endocrinology of the human pineal" (Mullen and Smith); "Neuropsychiatric aspects of fits and spasms" (Tibbett); and "Monosymptomatic hypochondriacal psychosis" (Munro).

For those seeking a strong forensic flavour, the last section of the book contains chapters on "Battered Wives" (Gayford); "Incest" (Blueglass) and "Rape" (Bowden)—a sorry litany of men's in temperate behaviour to women.

Where else would one find chapters on "Malicious Fire Raising" (Scott) in the company of "Toxic Psychosis" (Davison) and "Psychological aspects and management of obesity" (Mitchell)?

Unfortunately, this book does have some noticeable flaws. Many of the chapters are out of date—some almost to the point of being time-expired. The references of several contributors do not go beyond the 1970s, thereby leaving out many important more recent developments which have taken place. Nowhere is this more glaring than in the consideration of medico-legal questions where there is no mention of the 1983 Mental Health Act. An unfortunate lapse for a book proclaiming itself in its title as "Contemporary". Before leaving the subject of the title, I would have preferred to have seen the book being called *Contemporary psychiatry III*, thereby clearly distinguishing it from its forerunners.

Despite these shortcomings, I for one am delighted that the series has continued to flourish—long may it do so.

TREVOR SILVERSTONE

**Hydrocephalus.** Edited by Kenneth Shapiro, Anthony Marmarou and Harold Portnoy. (Pp 415; \$93.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1984.

This book comprises a series of 22 review papers and four summaries, grouped under the headings CSF hydrodynamics and

physiology, biomechanics and theoretical models of hydrocephalus, laboratory models, and clinically applied research in hydrocephalus. The papers are based on invited contributions to a Workshop in hydrocephalus, and the authors are well known and established in this field. Discussion is not presented verbatim, but is incorporated in the summaries. The first section includes a valuable and authoritative review by Davson of the development of concepts of CSF absorption and drainage. Other topics covered in this section include the relationship of the brain extracellular space with the CSF compartment in hydrocephalus and brain oedema, and the contribution of lymphatics in the olfactory/ethmoid region to CSF drainage; the evidence for this in man remains doubtful. The final section on clinically applied research includes a carefully considered paper by Epstein on the "slit ventricle syndrome"; although based on presentation of only four cases, his view that this syndrome differs from shunt malfunction is provocative but not all neurosurgeons will agree with the implication that the syndrome is "benign".

Although a significant proportion of the material has been presented in original form elsewhere, this book is in general a valuable collection of well-presented reviews. Its coverage of the basic scientific aspects and of studies of CSF dynamics in man probably justifies the substantial price.

AJ STRONG

**Cytology of the Central Nervous System (Monographs in Clinical Cytology Vol 8).** By Dorothy L Rosenthal. (Pp 206; \$58.75.) Basel: Karger AG, 1984.

This is really a book on the cytology of the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) illustrated in black and white as practised at the University College of Los Angeles (UCLA) by the authoress. It contains much practical advice and truth about how to do justice to a subject which is expanding, with the demands on the cytologist from the clinicians—on behalf of the patients—becoming more and more exacting. At the UCLA the diagnostic cytology of the CSF must be of a very high quality. That is not the case in many other places, and would not be possible for an occasional performer, not even with this book. The text and the legends seem more attractive than the pictures. The title is misleading; the book is about the cytology of the CSF and not of the central nervous system (CNS).

The needle biopsy specimen impressions and smears are just covered. There is no mention among the ample references that go back for a hundred years, of the use of a "bench book" on smears from Glasgow, say.<sup>1</sup>

The message that there is no substitute for looking and looking again comes out strongly. That is what Dr Rosenthal obviously does very well at UCLA.

It is a pity that current promising and useful techniques are only touched upon in the last paragraph as "on the horizon". The sun has risen, and one is nowadays pressed for their employment when examining the CSF. There has been a lot on their use in sections, and there are recent papers on the CSF, for example from Bristol, England.

It is not good, in such an expensive and slender book, to see the same picture more than once. In the laboratory, one may be spoiled by looking at colourful cells. Black and white pictures, especially the lower power ones are often not very useful. Such good pictures, however, are very critical. The problems of reproduction of good photographs in a book are illustrated in figs 7 and 49: they show the same cell which is unnecessary, but 7 comes out better. Higher power pictures are usually better in books and this is shown, for example, in 178 which is a magnified area of fig 39.

It is hard to know to whom to recommend this book, even though it has much that is good and true.

IVAN JARROLD

#### References

- Hume Adams J, Graham DI, Doyle D. *Brain Biopsy. The smear technique for neurosurgical biopsies.* London: Chapman and Hall Ltd, 1981.
- Coakham HB, Garson JA, Brownell B, et al. Use of monoclonal antibody panel to identify cells in cerebrospinal fluid. *Lancet* 1984;i:1095-8.

**Progressive Spinal Muscular Atrophy.** International Review of Child Neurology Series. Edited by Ingrid Gamstorp and Harvey B Sarnat. (Pp 265; \$60.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1984.

This multi-author book has the flavour resulting from a conference, although this is not stated as being the case. Most of the chapters are followed by another author's commentary; very few of these are critical enough to be of value. The major topics covered are: the clinical features of childhood spinal muscular atrophy; genetics; electrophysiology, imaging, and muscle histo-

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