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 intemperate 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 Many of the chapters are out of date—some almost to the point of being time-expired.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.¹

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 if 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 fig 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 JAVITCH

References

- ¹ Hume Adams J, Graham DI, Doyle D. *Brain Biopsy. The smear technique for neurosurgical biopsies*. London: Chapman and Hall Ltd, 1981.
- ² 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 of 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 his-

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tology in diagnosis; and the medical, orthopaedic, and psychosocial management of spinal muscular atrophies. These last chapters, concerned with an often neglected area, are useful. Pearn and Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz, in two good contributions on genetics and clinical aspects, still disagree about classification. This controversial issue could have been discussed further with benefit.

It should be stressed that the subject matter of this volume is really confined to the spinal muscular atrophies of childhood, and it can therefore be recommended more to paediatricians than adult neurologists.

AE HARDING

Informative Value of the Clinical EEG in Organic Psychiatry. By B van Sweden. (Pp 259; £8.00.) Belgium: Ghent University Medical Centre EEG-Lab: Dept of Psychiatry, 185 De Pintelaan, 9000 Ghent (Privately published).

The author is right when she mentions in the brief introduction to the book that accounts of the value of the clinical EEG in psychiatry are rare; hence the interest that new arrivals generally arouse. The goals proposed in the early pages appear very promising and it is disappointing that the text does not meet the expectations.

The book consists of five chapters dealing with various topics on the use of the EEG in psychiatry: two in relation to hypno-sedative and psychotropic drugs, one to the investigation of sleep and the other two to the EEG aspects in symptomatic psychoses, with special reference to alcoholism and psychiatric syndromes in epilepsy. The chapter on psychotropic drugs and that containing topics on the EEG in alcoholism provide interesting comments and discussions relative to the literature and to the author's own material of patients and EEGs. In my view, the other chapters add no new relevant issues to the available literature on the topics. Each chapter is followed by a fairly comprehensive list of references and the author makes good use of these in the text.

The display of contents is short of a coherent rationale that give unity to the book; one has the impression that this is a rather premature effort to put a series of articles together into a book, without attaining success. The same problem affects each chapter within itself; in some instances for example, the reason for differentiating paragraphs under headings and sub-

headings is not clear at all and often leads to repetition of assertions or discussions, which are superfluous and tiring.

Some of the comments on particular EEG patterns are debatable and need to be treated more thoroughly (for example burst-suppression). Several terms used to describe EEG patterns have long been discouraged by the International Federation of Societies for EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology (1974) because they may imply underlying neurophysiological mechanisms (that is, irritative, dysrhythmic, desynchronised) and can be misleading when used descriptively.

As regards technical aspects of the EEG, there is a general scarcity of information throughout the book with a lack of recording specifications and clinical parameters at the time of the EEG procedure. The selection of montages in the illustrations is not always acceptable, for example, using common reference arrangements to demonstrate "hypersynchrony" and then comparing these with samples in bipolar montages to demonstrate that the effect has receded.

Although formal aspects are not directly my concern, there are inadequacies in this respect that badly affect the contents and may be accountable for some of the criticisms; therefore to ignore them completely would be unfair to the author. The translation into English is deficient and leads to frequent oddities of the language, often obscuring the meaning of contents. Editorial mistakes are profuse, going from spelling errors to references to illustrations or case reports that are incorrect. The quality of the EEG illustrations is extremely poor, some are almost completely rubbed out and are therefore useless and making the corresponding comments on the text meaningless.

It is far from my intention to discourage the author; her line of thought and the material of patients and EEGs that she has collected have potential and deserve better treatment than the one provided in the current publication, but, unfortunately, in its present form the book cannot be recommended.

Dr R OBRECHT

Paediatric Development Therapy. Edited by Sophie Levitt. Foreword by Paul H Pearson. (Pp 265; £12.80.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1984.

Sophie Levitt has gathered 12 other therapists—seven physiotherapists, three occupational therapists and two speech

therapists—to present their views on the treatment of children. The layout is similar to her previous book from the same publisher, "*Treatment of Cerebral Palsy and Motor Delay*", which has been so well received and is now in its 2nd edition. The authors appear to have been given the freedom to tackle their subjects as they thought best, which has obvious advantages. It also has the disadvantage that the book has less shape than it might and not every chapter is suitable for the wide target readership, ("nurses, teachers, child care staff, parents and social workers" as well as therapists). One chapter in particular, *Aids to Daily Living* (a good chapter), is orientated to a British readership and much of its specific information would be of little use to others.

The editor's chapters cover Child Development and the Therapist, Motor Development, the Cerebral Palsies, Spina Bifida and Severe Visual Handicap. Not surprisingly the chapter on cerebral palsy is the least successful: being such a complex and variable disorder, one short chapter addressed to such a wide readership is probably asking too much. Hilary Baddeley writes briefly, precisely and helpfully on what is known of Motor Learning; Jean Cooper's and Clare Latham's chapters complement each other well, one discussing speech and language development and the other communicating with children, which describes amongst other things the various systems used for communicating. Susan Rushfirth's chapter on physiotherapy for severely mentally handicapped children is a model of clear sighted and thought-provoking writing and Alison Wisbeach's chapter on children with brittle bones and Sylvia Hyde's on muscle disorders in childhood are excellent.

There is a delightfully perceptive chapter by Dorothy Seglow on an early intervention group for mothers and infants and what might be described as a companion chapter by Ester Cotton on the integration of disciplines. It makes a fitting end to the book, although I found the diagrams detracted from her clear text. There is an informative chapter on the role of a physiotherapist in a neonatal unit by Finuala Murphy.

A generous 1/7 of the book is on perceptual motor disorders, a grey area for therapy, where techniques of assessment proliferate and their relationship treatment becomes evermore tenuous. It is an important subject, but one which needs firm editing in a book planned for so diverse a readership.