

Handbook of Psychiatry, Vol 1, General Psychopathology. Edited by M Shepherd, OL Zangwill. (Pp 307; £27.50 h/back; £9.95 p/back.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.

Handbook of Psychiatry, Vol 3, Psychoses of Uncertain Aetiology. Edited by JW Wing, Lorna Wing. (Pp 313; £27.50 h/back, £9.95 p/back.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.

The appearance of the first two volumes of a handbook of psychiatry which is to extend to five volumes and aims to be "the comprehensive authoritative multi-authored handbook . . . in this country" is indeed a major event in psychiatry. The series has close links with the journal *Psychological Medicine* in having Professor Michael Shepherd as its General Editor, and being planned by the International Advisory Committee of that journal. Each of the five volumes has one or two editors and a number of contributors, most of whose names will be well known to psychiatric readers. The handbook is intended to reflect the Maudsley approach to psychiatry and it is apparent from the list of contributors that most have spent some time at that institution in the course of their careers and a few have been subject to similar influences elsewhere.

The approach is indeed comprehensive. Volume 1 concerns General Psychopathology, covered from the historical background, through the clinical phenomena of mental disorders, to taxonomy and diagnosis, with a number of chapters in each section. Similarly, Volume 3, Psychoses of Uncertain Aetiology (even the caution of the title reflects the Maudsley influence) covers schizophrenia and paranoid psychoses; affective psychoses; and psychoses of early childhood, systematically and thoroughly. Considering the scope of the work, each volume is not a large book. There is a remarkable uniformity of style in the chapters; each is concise, detailed, and to the point. This feature suggests strong and precise editorial policies, and a choice of contributors who can work within them. The style combined with the provision of references for each chapter, grouped together at the end of the book, a comprehensive index, an author index, and a cross reference index, makes the seeking of a particular piece of information easy. As might be expected in a series written in the Maudsley tradition, the contributions refer to the literature widely but selectively; this is a most useful feature of

the book. The content of the contributions is, of course, wide-ranging and authoritative. These features will make the series a major work of reference, probably unsurpassed in English language texts, but this does not always make for easy reading, as each contribution tends to contain the most mundane information as well as more complex, theoretical, speculative and up to date material. This problem is probably inescapable in a book which aims to be encyclopaedic in its approach.

On the evidence of these two volumes there can be little doubt that this major work will be a success, not only now, but as the major, authoritative and comprehensive reference work on British psychiatry for many years to come, and like its antecedents, a milestone in the development of British psychiatry. Every practising psychiatrist will want to have ready access to the Handbook, and most will find the £50 for the soft-backed version in five volumes a sound investment. The appearance of volumes 2, 4 and 5 is eagerly awaited.

RHS MINDHAM

Henri Gastaut and the Marseille School's Contribution to the Neurosciences. Edited by Roger J Broughton. (Pp 448; \$130.25; Dfl 280,00.) Amsterdam: Elsevier Biomedical Press B.V., 1982.

This beautifully printed volume includes papers by 65 friends and former students and honours Henri Gastaut who is indeed the foremost example and model of an epileptologist. Under his leadership the annual "Colloques de Marseille" attracted basic scientists and clinicians from the whole world and defined the new speciality of Epileptology.

This volume by its content demonstrates the broad and varied subjects as well as specific matters that must be considered by the physician studying and treating patients with seizures. The topics are divided into eight sections; 1. Introduction 2. Predisposition to Epilepsy 3. Generalised Seizures and Epilepsies 4. Temporal lobe epilepsy 5. Miscellaneous epilepsy and other (this includes neuroradiology and CT scans) 6. Cerebral anoxia and Vascular Epilepsy 7. EEG patterns, evoked potentials and behaviour 8. Sleep and sleep related conditions. Each subject is covered by several papers which include historical reviews, experimental reports and especially clinical aspects of seizures.

Most important is the fact that Henri

Gastaut did not sit idly by (which indeed would likely have been impossible for him) but contributes himself several excellent papers. Section 2 begins with a paper by Gastaut on "Benign or Functional (versus organic) Epilepsies in different states of Life". This is presented with various "electro-clinical" manifestations in the new-born, the infant, the child, the adolescent, the adult and the aged. Other papers by Gastaut include a review and summarisation of the condition widely known as "Lennox Gastaut Syndrome", and papers on "Temporal lobe Epilepsy" and on "Computerized Tomography in Epilepsy".

This volume, while being a particular intellectual feast for those of us who consider ourselves also Epileptologists, can be recommended for clinical neurophysiologists, general neurologists, psychiatrists, paediatricians and neurosurgeons, and also to anyone interested in an up-to-date survey of Epileptology.

G PAMPIGLIONE,
CARY G SUTER

Localization in Neuropsychology. Edited by Andrew Kertesz. (Pp 527; \$53.00.) New York: Academic Press Inc, 1983.

This is a multi-disciplinary collection of papers dealing with the problems of the cerebral localisation of cognitive and language functions. The volume provides a comprehensive account of this topic and a critical evaluation of current research. The choice of subject matter does not have a clear rationale but basically the 21 chapters are divided into two groups. In the first are the studies dealing with the description of the methods available for the localisation of function. For instance computerised and position-computed tomography, measures of cerebral blood flow and electric stimulation, and also the description of neuro-anatomical features of the lesion responsible for the dysfunction. In the second group are those studies dealing with the localisation of the major cerebral syndromes recognised in clinical neurology. Thus six chapters are devoted to the localisation of the aphasias (Broca's, Wernicke's conduction and transcortical) alexia and agraphia. There are also other contributions describing the localisation of apraxia, the Gerstmann and the neglect syndrome. There is one further paper dealing with the behavioural changes associated with frontal lobe lesions.

In the Introduction, Dr Kertesz presents

a critical evaluation of the question connected with localisation of functions. In this respect two points are worth mentioning. First, that the precision in defining the nature of the cognitive deficits is as important as the precision in the methods required to localise a lesion; without this parallel development conclusions regarding the relationship between function and structure are likely to be limited. The second point is that the whole subject of a discrete localisation of function in the brain should be viewed with caution as it is more likely that complex behaviours are reliant upon the integration of information from different areas within the brain.

MARIA A WYKE

Slow Virus Infections. By VD Timakov, VA Zuev. (Pp 245; £10.00.) MIR Publishers—Distrib New York: Praeger, 1983.

This book covers the interesting and rapidly growing field of persistent infection largely from the point of view of human disease. Unfortunately the work is out of date as there are no references later than 1975. When first published in Russian in 1977 it would have provided a most interesting account of these diseases, but it cannot now be accepted as authoritative.

WB MATHEWS

Neurotransmitters and Drugs, Second Ed. By Zygmunt L Kruk, Christopher J Pycock. (Pp 204; £6.95.) Beckenham: Croom Helm Ltd, 1983.

"*Neurotransmitters and Drugs*" provides a concise and readable account of the ways in which drugs can interact with neurotransmitter processes. The opening chapter summarises the basic concepts underlying neurotransmission whilst each of the following chapters deals with a specific neurotransmitter or related group of neurotransmitters. In a stepwise fashion each chapter outlines the synthesis, storage, release and inactivation of each neurotransmitter, before describing how drugs used clinically may interact with these components to produce their therapeutic effects (a format which makes the book especially useful for rapid revision purposes). These interactions are also summarised in tabular form at the end of the chapter. In addition to therapeutic effects, mention is also made of how these

drugs may interact with neurotransmitters to produce their unwanted side effects. Although mainly dealing with the classical neurotransmitters, there are also chapters devoted to some of the more obscure neurotransmitters, including the peptides and histamine.

Overall the book provides a sound introduction to the subject of neuropharmacology for students of medicine and pharmacy, both due to its content and format. It may also provide a useful source of revision for more advanced students of neuroscience.

EAMONN KELLY

Functional Radionuclide Imaging of the Brain (Serono Symposia Publications from Raven Press, Vol 5). Edited by Philippe L Magistretti. (Pp 384; \$73.50.) New York: Raven Press, 1983.

The last two decades has seen enormous developments in the methods of imaging the brain and measuring its blood flow and metabolism. Each method has its advantages and disadvantages. Perusal of the literature does not always make this apparent as each technique has its enthusiastic advocates, a state of mind which is not always compatible with critical evaluation.

The present volume has the merit that the whole range of imaging techniques— isotope scintigraphy, CT X-ray scanning, single photon emission tomography, PET scanning and xenon clearance techniques are all reviewed by experts. There is a useful opening chapter on the blood brain barrier which is very relevant to many of these techniques. In addition their application to vascular disease, tumours and aging is considered in various ways. The book will be useful to people engaged in one or other aspect of this field who wish to obtain an overall view. The speed of progress is, however, underlined by the fact that extensive though the coverage of the book is, it has not reached nuclear magnetic resonance.

JOHN MARSHALL

Atlas of the Human Brain and Spinal Cord. By Dyal NP Singh, FB Cookson. (Pp 88; £8.95.) Beckenham: Croom Helm Ltd, 1983.

This atlas cannot be recommended to medical and dental students, for whom it is

intended. It aims to supplement available works by its specialised dissections and stained preparations. Unfortunately, the quality of photographic plates is erratic. Many do not reveal the three dimensional subtleties of the dissections; too frequently important areas are indicated only by a black arrow ending in a dark cavern of shadow. There is confusion over the plane of section in several of the illustrations. There is no system in the staining of slices at any one level. Magnified sections through the diencephalon, brain stem and spinal cord are helpful; but again, some of the reproductions are so dark as to be useless. There is a laudable attempt to introduce the student to computerised tomographic brain scans but these are of such lamentable quality as to be meaningless. Without extensive revision, this atlas will not deserve to stand alongside the established favourites.

P NIGEL LEIGH

Neurobiology of Cerebrospinal Fluid 2. Edited by James H Wood. (Pp 961; \$89.50.) New York: Plenum Publishing, 1983.

Gone are the days when one simply measured the CSF total protein and sugar levels. Wood's second volume now gives a total of 108 chapters by individual area experts on the diverse contents of spinal fluid. The balance is still weighted in favour of lower molecular weight compounds (16 of 58 chapters) such as neural transmitters, peptides, amines and the like and rather less on proteins (8 of 58). This also partially redresses the further imbalance of Volume I. The interests are a partial reflection of the editor's, namely surgical, since 43 of the 136 authors hail from such departments. Nevertheless the contents are in the main quite up to date and extensively referenced as one would expect from such a tome. There is the inevitable amount of overlap but not to an excessive degree. It would be nice to know that CSF lactate has considerably improved upon the measurement of glucose but perhaps that will be for Volume 3?

On balance the book fills a real need for the encyclopaedic (although still slightly patchy) approach to a Cinderella fluid. No one who takes an enlightened interest in his CSF results should be without it.

EJ THOMPSON