embolus, spasticity, involuntary movements and frozen shoulder are considered separately. A complete chapter is devoted to the loss of language with a few sentences on the classification of speech disorders and simple "tips for talking to the patient."

Although rather naive in some of its considerations I feel those responsible for the care of stroke patients should study this chapter, for communication in the dysphasic patient is the essential problem and the simple statements of advice given on this chapter are very useful and certainly should be included in any teaching on the management and care of dysphasic patients. Perceptual disorders and psychological problems are considered and the remainder of the book is devoted to remarks concerning prognosis, the value of physiotherapy and the various aids and home modifications available.

There has been a great deal of discussion in the literature and in leading articles on the rehabilitation of stroke and now we have in this small pamphlet some very positive ideas put together in a most acceptable form. Very useful to those involved in the management of stroke patients are some addresses and publications put together in a comprehensive appendix, mentioning organisations and help groups available not only in the United Kingdom, but elsewhere in the world. This gives the pamphlet a somewhat international flavour and I feel at very low cost those in the neurological specialties should read the advice given to us by Dr Mulley, not with an attitude of critical scientific evaluation, but simply to remind ourselves where in certain areas we may be lax and inattentive in applying some of the simple precepts he discusses.

JB FOSTER

Physiological and Behavioural Effects of Food Constituents. *Nutrition and the Brain, Vol 6.* Edited by Richard J Wurtman, Judith J Wurtman. (Pp 292; \$56.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1983.

The ability of nutritional factors to alter brain function is a fascinating area of research which could potentially affect us all in the way we select our diet. Normal brain function requires a variety of substances which cannot be synthesised within nervous tissue but which are incorporated from the diet. Many of these essential factors have been identified and their potential for altering brain function highlighted in previous volumes of this series. However, much remains unknown and in par-

ticular little attention has been given to the many substances hidden in commercially produced foods such as colourings and other permitted additives.

The present volume is unfortunately rather mixed in its approach to the physiological and behavioural effects of food constituents. The initial chapter is highly specialised dealing in particular with the pharmacology of methylxanthines and caffeine. This is followed by an intriguing insight into the workings of the FDA in regulating neuro-effective food additives. Attention is subsequently focused on the possible behavioural and cognitive effects of diet in children and on the question of what governs our selection of food. Finally, an important question related to brain function is discussed, namely the ability of dietary amino acid precursors to regulate monoamine transmission in brain.

While many intriguing facets of nutrition are discussed, this is not good general reading as a single volume. The individual contributions are excellent but they do not marry well together. However, as part of the series *Nutrition and the Brain*, the work will find itself on many library shelves.

PETER JENNER

Atlas of Pediatric Neurosurgical Techniques. By Francisco J Villarejo. (Pp 224; \$89.25.) Basel: Karger, 1984.

Operative neurosurgery books appear upon the market at a steady rate. Clearly they attract a sufficient number of buyers, or the publishers would not undertake the considerable expense of producing them. They certainly satisfy the needs of those neurosurgeons who feel they must attempt the very difficult task of committing to paper their methods of operating. How well they satisfy the needs of others, is however, a different matter. Surgeons derive their expertise from a mixture, in varying proportions, of watching, listening, reading, assisting, but mainly from (sometimes painfully acquired) experience. For the sake of the patient this complex process must be as speedy as possible; hence the possible value of books such as this. Dr Villarejo was at an early stage interested in paediatric neurosurgery and, as has always been essential, travelled far and wide to acquire his knowledge.

Within the unavoidable limits imposed by the printed page, this atlas succeeds in conveying a clear idea of the author's methods. The numerous line-drawings are diagrammatic and easily understood.

Photographs of patients, angiograms and CT scans are used to supplement the information.

That the repertoire of lesions found in the paediatric age group and the techniques needed to deal with them surgically are substantially different from those found in adult neurosurgery is very apparent from this atlas. Few neurosurgeons, whether they be experienced or not, could fail to obtain helpful instruction from these pages.

KENNETH HILL

Neurocardiology. The Interrelationship between Dysfunction in the Nervous Cardiovascular System. (MPN Vol 13.) By Ralph M Johnson, David G Lambie and John MK Spalding. (Pp 408; £19.50.) London: WB Saunders Co, 1984.

In 1974, Johnson and Spalding performed an importance service when they wrote one of the first comprehensive accounts of the clinical disorders of the autonomic nervous system: they successfully brought together in a readable and scholarly way much information which was hitherto only available in separate journals. Now 10 years later and aided by a third author Dr Lambie they have succeeded again. This book entitled *Neurocardiology and subtitled The inter-relationship between dysfunction in the nervous and cardiovascular system*, is sub-divided into major sections. The first analyses the normal and abnormal control of the cardiovascular system by the nervous system and is mainly a welcome revision and expansion of much of their first book. To give an example of the progress in this field, their chapter on orthostatic hypotension which is still the presenting symptom of many autonomic disorders requires more than 200 references to recent work. They discuss controversies concerning the classification of progressive autonomic failure which has been clarified by the availability of plasma catecholamine assays and rigorous clinical testing as well as by the newly available receptor binding studies. The wide range of drug treatments they review is merely a reflection of the great difficulties that remain in the management of these disorders. In addition to the progressive disorders of unknown cause they discuss fully diabetes and alcoholism in which they have recently taken a particular interest. The more complex problems of the cardiovascular responses to emotion and pain are also discussed. As in their earlier book they enliven their text with quotations from