Book reviews

warrant a separate section. Consideration should have been given to the role of transphenoidal surgery as well as transfrontal surgery in relieving chiasmal compression due to massive tumours.

Notwithstanding these comments this is an excellent book and can be highly recommended.

NF LAWTON

Diagnosis and Treatment of Pineal Region Tumors. Edited by Edward A Neuwelt. (Pp 393; £68.00.) London: Williams & Wilkins, 1984.

Tumours of the pineal region are uncommon but recently their treatment has become controversial. Put simply the problem is that neuroradiological investigations cannot certainly distinguish between benign and malignant pineal tumours. For benign tumours the treatment is complete excision but if the tumour proves to be malignant, tumour cells may be disseminated. Should the tumour be treated by trial of radiotherapy or should the diagnosis first be established by histology? These controversies are fully discussed in the book and the various managements presented very evenly. A firm but liberal editorial hand is evident throughout and most chapters have a brief summary. The bibliographies of these chapters are additionally meant to be combined at the end of the book although I noted several omissions.

There is a brief but adequate chapter on neuro-ophthalmology and a larger interesting chapter on neuroradiology outlining a diagnostic strategy. The author considers angiography is essential for all patients with a pineal mass although admitting that it is intended as an aid in surgery rather than diagnosis.

The book is profusely and well illustrated and the drawings and photographs of operative approaches maintain a high standard. The three major surgical approaches of infratentorial supracerebellar, occipital transtentorial and the transcallosal are described and illustrated. The chapter on microsurgical anatomy is first rate with excellent drawings and photographs some in colour and particularly valuable schematic drawings and colour plates giving the appearance at operation by different approaches. All the most modern techniques are described including stereotactic biopsy which in part ends the controversy about open biopsy with risk of

dissemination or observation of the response to irradiation.

The general conclusion must be that treatment of hydrocephalus and stereotactic biopsy is the first step followed by irradiation if the tumour is malignant or radical excision if benign. Tumour histology is therefore of great importance and is given full treatment including an excellent review of their immunopathology. The chapter on radiotherapy reviews the literature and finally suggests that large volume irradiation is preferable although not routine craniospinal irradiation.

A beautifully produced book amply justifying the forward "an outstanding contribution to neurosurgical literature".

ER HITCHCOCK

Neuromuscular Manifestations of Systemic Disease. By Robert B Layzer. (Pp 434; \$75.00.) Philadelphia: FA Davis Co. UK Distrib: Quest Publishing Agency, 1985.

This is an account of peripheral motor disorders (muscle and nerve) which affect man in the context of generalised disease and its treatment. The initial chapter deals with the diagnosis of various neuromuscular syndromes (for example acute generalised weakness, myoglobinuria, cramps) and makes some apposite remarks about the interpretation and necessity of certain laboratory investigations. There follow eight chapters covering mineral and electrolyte, endocrine, infective and inflammatory, neoplastic, renal, circulatory, nutritional and gastrointestinal disorders. Finally there is an excellent section on the complications of medical and surgical treatment. The book is comprehensively referenced, at least up to 1981 and early 1982, and is well indexed.

It is a pleasure to read a single author work on such a wide range of subjects: personal opinions are clearly stated, at times pointedly, and many difficult aspects of diagnosis and management analysed at some length. Of particular note are the discussions about electrolyte disturbance, a helpful section on the differential diagnosis of plexus lesions in malignancy and the analysis of iatrogenic neuromuscular disorders. One aspect not covered in any particular detail is poisoning with heavy metals.

Many physicians in the UK should find this a useful and easily readable book which bears closely on everyday referral practice in a general hospital setting. It

benefits from not being too large and in being somewhat selective in the topics dealt with in depth.

CM WILES

Psychiatric Ethics. Edited by Sidney Bloch and Paul Chodoff. (Pp 368; £6.95.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984.

This is a very good book. It consists of 18 chapters on various aspects of psychiatric ethics. Authors are about evenly divided between both sides of the Atlantic and the majority are psychiatrists. However, an Oxford philosopher, Professor Richard Hare, makes an astringent and thought provoking contribution, and Professor David Mechanic, from Rutgers, gives a sociologist's view. Most psychiatric activities, including diagnosis, research, psychotherapy, ECT and psychosurgery, drug treatment, sex therapy, compulsory care and confidentiality are discussed at length. There is a useful chapter on how psychiatric ethics should be taught. Some of the situations described, particularly the legal pronouncements on psychiatric practice are fortunately confined, at present, to the USA but it is instructive to read about them. Although the situation in the Soviet Union is described in detail, there is no mention of the dreadful abuses of psychiatry in Germany before the war, nor of the ethical issues involved in the care of the mentally handicapped. But these are minor criticisms. This is a valuable book, which could be read with profit by any member of the "greater medical profession".

JLT BIRLEY

Metabolic Probes of Central Nervous System Activity in Experimental Animals and Man. (Magnes Lecture Series Volume 1.) By Louis Sokoloff. (Pp 97; £16.50.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1984.

My only quarrel with this masterly little monograph is its title. Louis Sokoloff has been in the field of measuring cerebral blood flow and metabolism for three decades and is the originator and principle exponent of the ^{14}C deoxyglucose technique for measuring cerebral regional glucose metabolism. His description of the theory and practicalities is an excellent introduction and exposition of the use of