Book reviews

barely mentioned.

The book contains little that can be of interest to those working in the field of cerebral specialization of cognitive functions. Those who may benefit from this publication are students being initiated in the field of neuro-psychology.

M WYKE

Functions of the Right Cerebral Hemisphere. Edited by Andrew W Young. (Pp 235; \$38.00.) London: Academic Press Inc, 1984.

This multi-authored volume provides quite a useful review of our present knowledge of many of the functions of the right cerebral hemisphere. The book is written by neuropsychologists and is naturally concerned with those topics that have been most amenable to current methods of neuropsychological analysis. There are for example individual chapters dealing with visuospatial abilities, facial perception, music and language capabilities of the right hemisphere. Conspicuously, emotion, affect and from the pathological point of view, neglect and denial are omitted or barely mentioned. The book is certainly a worthwhile source of reference for the neurologist who needs up-dating on the neuropsychological aspects of those topics which it covers and which in the main are well reviewed. For all but a few however it will be for reference only.

JOHN MEADOWS

Differential Diagnosis in Neuropsychiatry. By Jeremy K A Roberts. (Pp 377; £17.00.) Chichester: John Wiley & Sons, 1984.

Dr Roberts, a British-trained psychiatrist working in Canada, has written a book that attempts, as its title asserts, to approach neuropsychiatry with a particular regard to the problems of examination, investigation and differential diagnosis. Almost inevitably, given the complexities of his subject, the book has ended up rather more than that and closer to a standard medium sized textbook of neuropsychiatry with its chapters organised in terms of syndromes rather

than disease entities. Thus, after introductory sections on history taking, mental state evaluation and neurological examination and on investigatory techniques, there follow chapters on aggression, delirium, dementia, catatonia and stupor, and so on. The book is rounded off by a series of case studies in neuropsychiatry.

There is certainly a need for a comprehensive but not over long neuropsychiatry primer. This book, in spite of its particular formula, may for the moment meet such a need but not without a few reservations. Recent published works in particular receive good coverage but are often quoted rather uncritically. There is at times a little too much theoretical speculation for a book the purpose of which is essentially practical and clinical. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, edition 3 (DSM 3) is a pervasive presence throughout the book. This is not altogether a bad thing; as a diagnostic classification it has much more to offer than the ICD; but the transatlantic addition to operative definitions has led to a proliferation of unfamiliar syndromes and acronyms, some inappropriately grandiose for example the Central Anticholinergic Syndrome (CAS), others slightly comical, such as the Isolated Explosive Disorder.

This is to dwell overmuch on the less satisfactory aspects of the book. By and large it achieves the aims set out by the author. It provides a condensed and informed account of its subject that will be of value both to the MRC Psych examinees and to the junior doctors confronted by diagnostic dilemmas.

BK TOONE

Advances in Epileptology. The XVth Epilepsy International Symposium. Edited by Roger J Porter, Richard H Mattson, Arthur A Ward Jr & Mogens Dam. (Pp 709; \$142.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1984.

This volume includes a wide selection of topics based on the XVth Epilepsy International Symposium held in Washington, DC in September 1983. It contains 113 contributions (chosen from the 450 presented at the meeting) and (as one might expect) almost half of them emanate from the United States.

The chapters have been arranged in 14 sections starting with basic studies on neurotransmitters, and the emission tomography. The section on antiepileptic drug binding includes sceptical views about

the value of monitoring free levels. Sections follow on the disposition of drugs and hormones during pregnancy, and then on teratogenesis, clinical trials and surgery. The last three sections on employability, the government's role in epilepsy prevention and treatment and in providing support services, and the establishment of a National Epilepsy Resource Center are well worth reading.

Although the volume brings together a great deal of useful information, it is really rather a jumble of disconnected contributions, not all of which have been placed under their appropriate section headings and many have already been published elsewhere. True there is something here for most who want to know what research on epilepsy has been going on but it is difficult to see the justification for publishing so much on such varied topics at such a ridiculously high price.

Those interested in the history of the scientific meetings sponsored by the international epilepsy community since the International League Against Epilepsy was established in Budapest in 1909 should turn to the fascinating review by JJ Cereghino tucked away in the middle of the book towards the end of a section misleadingly labelled *Clinical Aspects of Epilepsy*. In conclusion we read that the 1983 congress represents the last of the annual Epilepsy International symposia which are to be replaced by an International Congress every 2 years. So the XVIth EI Symposium is to be held in Hamburg in September 1985. Let us hope, if publication of its proceedings is considered necessary, that more thought is given to ensure that the format and content come out of orbit and the cost spirals down to earth.

MICHAEL ESPIR

Head and Neck Injuries in Sports. By Stephen E Reid & Stephen E Reid Jr. Also Stephen E Long & Gil Raviv. (Pp 198; \$27.00.) Illinois: Charles C Thomas, 1984.

The title is somewhat misleading as this book is largely concerned with head and neck injury in a single sport—American football. It is thus of limited interest to a neurological audience on this side of the Atlantic, especially as many of the injuries which are received in that sport result from its special rules and circumstances; for instance they may be caused by the violent manipulation of the helmets and face-

masks peculiar to that game. Furthermore approximately half of this book is taken up with an account of two special research projects of the authors: a radiotelemetric study of head impacts as they actually occur on the football field, and an investigation of neck muscle resistance to sudden head movement. Interesting as these studies are, they only serve to limit the potential readership even further. One is left with about a third of the book which discusses the mechanisms of head injury together with their diagnosis and management from a general point of view. These parts of the book contain much useful basic information which is well set out, but they do not warrant purchase by an English reader. Neurological injuries can result from a wide range of sporting activities, each of which causes special problems and it may be that there is a need for a monograph on the neurology of sport in its widest aspects. Unfortunately this book does not set out to fill that gap.

RS MAURICE-WILLIAMS

Management of Neurological Disorders. 2nd Edition. By Bryan Ashworth and Michael Saunders, (Pp 330; £14.95.) Sevenoaks: The Butterworth Group, 1985

Few neurological texts try to tackle the difficult problems of what to tell the patient and when. This book does so. It also contains many practical hints on the management of the physical and psychological problems of the disabled. As such, it should prove an excellent guide to the people for whom the Preface tells us it is designed: medical students, junior doctors, nurses and the paramedical profession of speech, physio, and occupational therapy.

If it has faults, they lie in its scope. At one end, I feel that it tries to cover too much: psychiatry and general intensive care, for example, are better covered in other texts. At the other, some of the details are perhaps a little misleading. Is it really true, for example that, if performed with care, visual evoked responses are "usually absent" in cortical blindness? And the quoted operative mortality rates for meningiomas (as high as 25% for those with a parasagittal origin) seem to take too little account of the achievements of modern neurosurgery. But these are quibbles. This is a thoroughly worthwhile book illuminated by a good deal of humanity and common sense.

G HARWOOD

Haemostasis in Cerebrospinal Fluid. Basic Concept of Antifibrinolytic Therapy of Subarachnoid Haemorrhage (*Acta Neurochirurgica, Supplementum 34*) By Peter Hindersin, Richard Heidrich & Siegfried Endler (Pp 77; DM54.00.) Vienna: Springer-Verlag, 1984.

In the initial chapters of this book the authors review results of their own extensive investigations into the effects of subarachnoid haemorrhage on the coagulation and fibrinolytic systems. They discuss the possible actions and interactions of each on the aneurysm thrombus both from within the vascular compartment and from the CSF space. A review of the literature on antifibrinolytic therapy in subarachnoid haemorrhage follows, preceding a detailed description of the pharmacological action of the antifibrinolytic agent p-aminomethyl benzoic acid (PAMBA) based on both animal and patient studies. The authors conclude that oral therapy of PAMBA is inadequate and that only intrathecal administration provides a significant antifibrinolytic effect (they make no comment on intravenous administration). The study culminates in a clinical evaluation of intrathecal PAMBA in patients with subarachnoid haemorrhage and a recommendation that this should be combined with either epsilon aminocaproic acid (EACA) or tranexamic acid (AMCA).

Although brief, the combination of many errors of English usage combined with a distinct lack of simplicity of phrase and colloquial language makes reading difficult. Such terms as "aetiologically unelucidated subarachnoid haemorrhage" and "inflammatorily changed CSF" take some time to digest!

The literature review is somewhat uncritical, and on several occasions conclusions from other studies are reproduced with an unwarranted dogmatism. The authors assume "good results" with EACA and AMCA in preventing rebleeding, yet from their own studies conclude that neither drug produces adequate suppression of fibrinolysis around the aneurysm fundus. Inevitably the authors own work is not described in the detail of the original publications, but crucial information is omitted, preventing proper evaluation. The basic scientific discussion builds up to the important question of whether or not intrathecal PAMBA helps prevent rebleeding, but an anticlimax follows when one finds that the treatment group in the relevant clinical study contained only 25 patients. There is no mention of numbers in the control

group, matching between groups, or whether or not randomization or double blinding occurred. This makes the resultant failure to show a significant effect meaningless. Should subsequent studies with greater patient numbers succeed in demonstrating a reduction of rebleeding with intrathecal PAMBA, it would still be essential to ensure that this benefit was not offset by ischaemic complications and recently reported for tranexamic acid before adopting it for routine use.

This book may benefit readers with particular interest in antifibrinolysis, but I suspect that it would be of little value to general neurologist or neurosurgeon.

KW LINDSA

Pain. Edited by R Rizzi and M Visentan (Pp 488; £30.00.) Sevenoaks: Piccin Butterworths, 1984.

This book comprises the proceedings, apparently with little editing, of a meeting of the European Chapters of the International Association for the Study of Pain held in Italy in 1983. It contains an extraordinary mixture of papers, with great variation in clinical and scientific standard. The book is divided into three main sections, on neck-shoulder-arm pain, pain in children and pain control in malignancies of the vertebral column. However, many of the contributors range more widely in their papers. Some of the papers are short reviews, others are reports of specific investigations, and others are no more than statements by the authors of their personally preferred treatments in particular situations. There are too many of the last sort and they would not be publishable elsewhere. The English translation of some papers leads to considerable ambiguity.

The subject matter in parts is novel to a British reader and not always well described. For example, I am still not sure exactly what the Nothnagel-Schultze algoparaesthetic syndrome or the Obdenskaja-Goljanitzi effect are. There are some bright spots in an otherwise indifferent collection of papers. Walsh writes clearly about morphine pharmacokinetics, stressing particularly the wide individual differences in opiate metabolism, and again on pain measurement in advanced cancer. A paper by Caldirola *et al* addresses the problem of chronic pelvic pain in adult women, with the surprising finding of a history of incest in no fewer than 36%. Ansell deals with the difficulties of assessing joint pain in children in a short, succinct article. In the section on pain control in malignancy