

Clinical Management of Neurogenic Communicative Disorders 2nd ed. By Donnell F Johns, Sara Haynes, Audrey L Holland, Leonard L LaPointe, John C Rosenbek, Robert T Wertz, Mark S Ylvisaker. (Pp 323; £24.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1985.

This interesting book serves as an important counter to the therapeutic pessimism often felt by clinicians in managing speech and language disturbances. By incorporating chapters on basic neurophysiology and pathophysiology, on cognitive and other models of deficit, and on clinical practice, the book serves as a handbook for those involved in treating patients, for those intending to be involved or for those needing to make rational referrals on to appropriate specialists.

The prevailing tone of the book is one of cautious and usually realistic optimism, and the belief that clinical practice in the absence of conceptual basis is likely to be flawed and inadequate.

The book is well worth its £24.00 price tag, and while it will obviously be required reading for speech and language professionals, many neurologists and paediatricians will certainly need to refer to it from time to time, and psychologists will find many of the chapters of value.

DN BROOKS

Mental Deficiency - The Changing Outlook 4th ed. Edited by Ann M Clarke, Alan DB Clarke, Joseph M Berg. (Pp 834; £40.00.) London: Methuen & Co, 1985.

The new edition of this established text maintains its pre-eminence as the definitive work in the field of mental retardation. An adherence to the less fashionable term, mental deficiency, is explained in the preface as the only option in an otherwise rapidly developing field; the alternative titles have been pre-empted by other authors. This maintenance of the status quo is shared with at least two leading journals and eminent organisations and does serve to emphasise the firm bed rock of established knowledge on which the work is based.

Mental retardation is no longer a field in which a single author, however distinguished a polymath, can hope to encompass the range of bio-medical and psychosocial developments which have taken place in recent years. The distinction and experience of the present triumvirate of editors has led to a

happy blend of established fact, carefully chosen theory and new knowledge which fully justifies the sub-title *The Changing Outlook*.

For a multi-author work with a considerable proportion of new contributors there is a pleasing consistency and quality which adds to its value as a reference work. The editors opening chapter provides a guide to the changing scene which will be of particular concern to readers of this journal and others less intimately involved in the total care of people with a mental handicap. For the medical reader, the chapters on the basic sciences, psychiatry and paediatric neurology summarise the present state of the art, but also point to important gaps in our knowledge, particularly of developmental neuropsychiatry and of the diagnosis and treatment of specific disorders.

In the final part of the book on prevention and amelioration, the reviews, by the editors, of biomedical and psychosocial interventions provide the general reader with a succinct, but comprehensive overview which will be relied upon by teachers and post-graduate students alike. Chapters on behaviour modification, communication and family aspects provide an update in areas where there has been particularly rapid advance since the last edition and serve to put into perspective the application of accrued knowledge and theory to the provision of services.

Finally, contributions on education, the habilitation of adults and an international view of services lends the work an authority and international stature which betoken optimism in a sometimes neglected field and also provides a model for multidisciplinary collaboration in the behavioural sciences.

JOHN CORBETT

Senile Dementia of the Alzheimer Type; Early diagnosis, Neuropathology and Animal Models. (*Advances in Applied Neurological Sciences Vol 2.*) Edited by J Traber and WH Gispen. (Pp 376; DM138.00.) Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 1986.

This book contains the proceedings of the second International Tropen-Bayer Symposium on Ageing of the Brain held in Cologne in November 1984. The first symposium had been held only two years earlier but the rate of research in the areas of Alzheimer's disease and ageing were thought to be sufficiently rapid to convene an early second meeting. The problem with pro-

ceedings published subsequently in hard-back is that they may, as here, fail either to give up to date information or to provide an overall review. Such a book cannot compete with abstracts published at the time of the meeting or as a journal supplement; it may draw together disparate disciplines but needs to follow, to some extent, a review style. This particular book includes some very general chapters such as that on MRI which mentions little about Alzheimer's disease but provides a general discussion of the scope of the technique. At the other extreme the chapter on the immunocytochemistry of neurofibrillary tangles reads as a form publication. The result is that the book falls between two stools, it certainly contains some good and interesting chapters but it is likely only to be of value to those working directly in this field.

MARTIN N ROSSER

Notices

Laser Association of Neurological Surgeons International. The Fifth Annual General and Scientific Meeting will be held 9-12 April 1987 in Chicago, Illinois. Information may be obtained from Leonard J Cerullo, MD, 676 N St Clair, 1950, Chicago, Illinois 60611, USA.

The Fulton Society. XIIIth International Symposium, on *Memory*, will be held in San Francisco, USA, 1987. Further information is available from Professor Victor Soriano, Calle Buenos Aires 363, Montevideo, Uruguay.