ters on various aspects of magnetic resonance imaging including chemical shift imaging. The only problem with this book, as with PET, is its price.

JD PICKARD

Lecture Notes on Neurology, 6th ed. By Ivan T Draper. (Pp 209; £7.50.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1985.

This paperback was first published in 1965 and its age is beginning to show. In any book reprinted and revised over 21 years, defects are likely to become evident, particularly in a specialty such as neurology, where advances in therapeutics, and imaging techniques have been so dramatic. Likewise, the emphasis in a textbook written twenty years ago was different from what would be considered important now. But, even in 1965, it is hard to believe that neurosyphilis justified four pages in a book of 217 pages; whereas the chapter devoted to the whole subject of vertigo is barely 1½ pages long.

The accounts given of various conditions tend to include in a single section, the description not only of the clinical features, but also the pathology. This detracts from the clarity of the description and is unlikely to help the undergraduate student. Similarly, the description of cerebrovascular disease fails to clearly distinguish persisting from transient cerebral ischaemia, and the sections on treatment fail to give details of pharmacokinetics, (for example of anti-convulsants or anti-Parkinsonian drugs). This information is, surely, essential in the management. One occasionally comes across relatively opaque statements such as "Selegiline reduces the disabilities which lessen the effectiveness of long term levodopa".

There is little guidance as to the indications for different methods of imaging or investigation. Computed tomography is only mentioned specifically in six lines of text, with the concluding remark "Now becoming more widely available...." Magnetic resonance imaging is not mentioned.

The book is designed for undergraduate teaching and the first parts achieve this aim with a well written and concise description of neurological anatomy, physiology, clinical history and examination. I would have liked a much more detailed revision of the section devoted to describing diseases of the nervous system. There are more readable and satisfactory texts available.

RB GODWIN-AUSTEN

Understanding Brain Damage. A primer of neuropsychological evaluation. By Kevin W Walsh. (Pp 243; £17.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1985.

Kevin Walsh's new book represents both an extension and a departure from his previous excellent survey of neuropsychological knowledge. Whereas the previous book was concerned to identify and structure our knowledge of brain behaviour relationships, the new book is an attempt to put this knowledge firmly into clinical practice. The attempt has succeeded magnificently.

The book begins with a statement of philosophy, and then deals in detail with a variety of clinical conditions which commonly present in a neuropsychological clinic (for example, alcohol related brain damage, intellectual decline, pseudo neurological disorders, head injury, and cerebrovascular disease). For each condition, the author gives a brief but informative account of relevant pathophysiological and neuropsychological information, and then describes a series of clinical cases, giving very considerable information about their neuropsychological assessment. The philosophy of assessment is one that relies on a detailed focused history; a brief neuropsychological examination, and a clinically informed interpretation of the test results. The approach is one that the reviewer favours, but those who like exhaustive test batteries, and detailed microanalysis of every possible psychological function will be surprised at the apparent brevity of the examinations carried out. The brevity is, however, combined with focused clarity, and it is a very pragmatic yet clinically appropriate model of practice.

The book is excellent, and at £17.00 it is a bargain.

DN BROOKS

Recent Advances in the Management of Pain. (Advances in Pain Research and Therapy, Volume 7.) Edited by Constantino Benedetti, C Richard Chapman and Guido Moricca. (Pp 712; \$105.50.) New York: Raven Press, 1984.

The *Advances in Pain Research and Therapy* series, sponsored by the International Association for the Study of Pain, includes the proceedings of the triennial world congresses and other volumes from smaller symposia. These books have proved very useful sources, but this recent addition to the series is the least successful. This is partly

because it appears that an undertaking has been given to all the participants in the symposium to publish their contributions, of variable scientific standard, and partly because the book embraces much more than pain management, with several chapters on other topics including, amongst others, pain mechanisms (very well covered in the recent volume 6 of this series), measurement of pain, and chronic pain with depression. Though many of these chapters are excellent, they unnecessarily lengthen an already large and expensive volume. It is surely not intended that each volume of the series should attempt to be a complete textbook of pain, and more editorial thought might have been given to this problem.

In the first section, on basic considerations, Wall has written a stimulating review of the neurophysiology of acute and chronic pain. Particularly important is his challenge of the validity of currently widely used tests for pain in animal experiments. He argues persuasively that most of these tests are not measurements of chronic pain at all, and it is a sobering thought that conclusions drawn from the results of such tests form the basis of many of our present concepts of acute and chronic pain. In a section on pharmacological treatment, Butler reviews the present status of tricyclic antidepressants in chronic pain, in a wide range of conditions including headache, facial pain, arthritis, denervation states, low back pain and cancer. Reported results are generally favourable, but as with so many other pain treatments, there is a dearth of properly controlled clinical trials. Fraioli and colleagues contribute to the interesting recent literature on the analgesic action of calcitonin; its place in treatment of chronic pain remains uncertain. In a section dealing with other modalities and approaches, Murphy and Anderson describe a multidisciplinary approach to chronic pain management, as used in the Seattle pain clinic. Pain clinics in Britain are mostly not run along these lines and this chapter makes interesting reading. While the patient may benefit from the combined expertise of such clinics, treatment "by committee" requires a strong chairman to direct management and take overall clinical responsibility, and it should not be assumed that patients will always be best managed in this way.

The largest section in the book, entitled pain and pain syndromes, includes a number of interesting chapters. Benedetti *et al* address the continuing important problem of post-operative pain. An extensive review of the duration and severity of pain following different operations is followed by a con-