sideration of the heterogeneity of pain mechanisms, details of pain treatments and the problems arising directly as a result of analgesia. This is an excellent chapter, full of useful practical advice. The enigma of reflex sympathetic dystrophy is discussed by Rizzi and co-authors. The usual difficulties of definition and terminology quickly emerge, and this probably has some bearing on the surprisingly good short and long term results of treatment in their patients. In a stimulating chapter, Benedetti and Bonica draw attention to the magnitude of the cancer pain problem. Pagni reviews the numerous neurosurgical procedures for cancer pain, discussing older as well as newer operations. Only ablative procedures are considered, thalamotomy receiving a relatively brief review. It is a pity that deep brain stimulation is not considered, either here or in any other chapter; most neurosurgeons concerned with pain relief are coming to the view that in general, stimulation has more to offer than ablation, with a lower morbidity. However, results of ablation or stimulation remain unpredictable and analgesia is often disappointingly short lived. Another cause for concern is the vastly different success rates obtained by different surgeons for any particular operation. Of the two chapters on pituitary ablation, Gianasi presents the more detailed review of Moricca's technique for pain relief in advanced widespread cancer.

There is much of interest and practical value in this book. However, it is over inclusive of topics not directly relevant to pain management which are adequately covered both in this series of books and in other easily accessible sources.

JW SCADDING

Psychiatry, Human Rights and the Law. Edited by Martin Roth and Robert Buglass. (Pp 241; £27.50.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985.

This volume contains contributions made to a conference held in September 1983, shortly before the introduction of the Mental Health Act in England and Wales. It contains contributions from many countries and includes a review of the changes in the Mental Health Act, and the problems arising in the USA and other countries with the increased emphasis on dangerousness as the reason for committal; lessons to be learnt from the Italian experiences, and the many knotty philosophical and practical issues concerned with the care of those who have broken the law

and are also mentally ill. All the contributions are of a high quality and from those who are experts in the field. The longest and most extensive contribution is by Professor Margaret Sommerville of the faculty of Law and the faculty of Medicine, McGill University. This is really a broad review of changes in mental health legislations and the varying emphasis which is put on different issues in different countries. Of crucial importance to British psychiatrists and their patients is the emphasis on "health or safety" as a reason for compulsory admission, rather than "serious dangerousness". As Professor Sommerville states, the latter approach is justified under the States "police power" whereas the former can be justified under the power of the State as a "good parent". One hopes that psychiatrists may still be viewed as good parents rather than as policemen in their ordinary clinical work. The consequences of the police approach is graphically illustrated in a case described by Professor Alan Stone; a young student who became obviously mentally ill at a University but refused to become dangerous, and the distress that the situation caused to himself and those concerned with his care. This volume can be strongly recommended to doctors of all sorts, to those working in the legal profession and to anybody concerned with human rights.

JLT BIRLEY

Panic: Facing Fears, Phobias and Anxiety. By Stewart Agras. (Pp 151; £22.95 h/b; £13.95 p/b.) Oxford: WH Freeman & Co Ltd, 1985.

This, to quote the jacket cover, is "a provocative book for the general reader and psychologist and is indispensable reading for phobia sufferers and their friends and families". When I read this I usually shudder as it is impossible to cater simultaneously for patients, their therapists and the general reader. My doubts were intensified after reading the first chapter on the "territory of fear" that tells us that "a panic attack is an intense burst of anxiety accompanied by marked physiological uproar" and that "common fears are a biological implant aimed at protecting the young against possible injury". The next chapter dwells at length on cardiac aspects of the panic attack and includes a frightening picture of the heart to illustrate mitral valve prolapse, which in America is still felt to be closely related to panic disorder. The poor patient who thinks he might be suffering from panic will then have it confirmed when he reads that his chance of death from heart disease and

stroke is double that of ordinary people. After this dramatic introduction, which no doubt would be described as flooding by the behavioural psychologist, the reader will be tempted to close the book in fright.

This will be a pity, because although Dr Agras continues to make simple things complicated—"certain classes of visual and auditory events activate a biologically endowed learning mechanism"—he does give a comprehensive and useful account of present thinking about phobias, obsessions, panic and their pharmacological and psychological treatments. I had to admire him for the courage with which he tackled subjects that would tax the most illuminating of teachers. We move from a detailed discussion of the phobias of Little Hans to the behavioural theories of JB Watson, and then to a simplified account of brain neurochemistry and neurotransmitters. We are treated to a discussion of Gray's septohippocampal theory of anxiety and an account of benzodiazepine receptors (in which the analogy of space capsules docking at a satellite is used to explain the specificity of receptors). The reader is then whisked away to current treatments for phobias and panic in which the transition from psychodynamic to behavioural and medical treatments is made felicitously without any apparent consistency.

The text is enlivened by some clever cartoons illustrating the most germane points. The artist is not acknowledged and may be related to Professor Agras himself.

In summary this book fails to live up to its impossible expectations but nonetheless gives a comprehensive and fair account of the nature and treatments of this group of often disabling conditions. It will make admirable reading for a patient who is grounded in the basic biological sciences and will also be useful reading for students of both sociology and psychiatry. I am still bothered about the first two chapters; I hope that they do not lead to a new condition: agoraphobia.

PETER TYRRELL

Headache. Diagnostic System and Taxonomic Criteria. By G Nappi and F Savolai. (Pp 116; £17.50.) London: John Libbey & Co Ltd, 1985.

This new book on headache is introduced by a preface written by Frederigo Sicurri which is lavish in personal praise of its authors from the Pavia school in Italy. Alessandro Agnoli follows with a foreword of flowery but quite enchanting prose but concludes: "the headache sufferer will continue

to be just that, with ever greater rejection of drugs and a preference for alternative medicine." The essence of this work of just over 100 pages is carried in three chapters on migraine, cluster headache and "daily chronic headache". These chapters follow the usual pattern of past well-established works, describing clinical features and a variety of pharmacological and biochemical research. They reflect much of the admirable work of the Italian school, leaning heavily on the attempts to classify headache by prolactin responses, by endorphin deficiencies in the CSF and by the therapeutic response to tryptophan. In a small book a comprehensive review of the literature is impossible, but though many good papers are cited here, there are some serious omissions if this is to be used as a primary source of reference.

Taxonomy, the attempt to order or classify the headache syndromes is a major preoccupation. Previous classifications are justly criticised, but the attempt to divide the clinical groups on the basis of "neuroendocrine" tests, though admirable in conception, will predictably fail the clinician. Existing clinical terms are at times confused; the authors use prodrome when many of us would use aura, and the real prodromal phase of mood and vegetative symptoms is not distinguished. "Daily Chronic Headache" is substituted for tension or muscle contraction headache, and this is a fair description if the term is deliberately widened to include traumatic head pain and pains referred from the cervical spine. Post-traumatic headache is considered at greater length than tension headache, and a slightly pretentious "neuroendocrine approach" is submitted, though curiously, there is little importance or emphasis placed on factitious pain, malingering or hysterical conversion.

I found the book easy to read, and the publishers are congratulated on an attractive format, liberally illustrated with tables and graphs set on a yellow background. Some of these bear a typeset far too small, but most are of pleasing appearance and complement the text.

I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to trained neurologists and physicians. Its attention to current research and new lines of thought in migraine is refreshing, but it is not a comprehensive, nor a balanced account to present to a trainee. In the end the infuriating enigma of migraine drives us back to a nice quotation in the Foreword, attributed to A Soulaïrac: "La sensation de la douleur est essentiellement un phénomène d'intégration nerveuse supérieure."

JMS PEARCE

Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry/IV (4th Ed). Edited by Harold I Kaplan and Benjamin J Sadock. (Pp 2054; £132.00.) London: Williams & Wilkins, 1985.

This large and costly book is described in the foreword as constituting "a thorough and complete introduction to clinical psychiatry, sufficiently comprehensive to prepare an American post-graduate student for his examinations in psychiatry". To meet this objective it contains sections (almost textbooks in their own right) on the biological sciences relevant to psychiatry, and on psychology, neurology, the socio-cultural sciences, experimental method and psychodynamic theory. These occupy the first 500 pages, the remaining 1,500 pages being given to clinical adult and child psychiatry. It is published as part of a series which includes a somewhat smaller synopsis of the Comprehensive Textbook and a study guide and self-examination review of the synopsis.

The underlying purpose of the publication of the first (1967) edition was to correct "the pathetic overselling of psychiatry which had taken place in the 1960s" by indicating that psychiatry had a definite scientific basis and was limited in its scope by clear boundaries. There was, in addition, an important subliminal message contained in its emphasis on clinical syndromes. The fourth edition is described as no longer needing to be so defensive, and as a result has been reduced in size "to make that statement with clarity and dignity".

To assess the scope and quality of a book of this size is difficult, particularly when it is written for a practice of psychiatry and an examination system different from ours, even though those differences are becoming less. It is very hard to maintain tight editing of such a mammoth enterprise and inevitably contributions are of varying standards. Certainly the inclusion of a section on clinical neurology seems of doubtful value to us because of its brevity and lack of emphasis on the inter-relationships with psychiatry. There is a separate chapter making some of the connections but it seems rather inadequate. Again one could argue that knowledge of the other sciences relating to psychiatry would also be better gained by references to independent texts on each subject in spite of the comments of the consulting editor that "many of the chapters on the basic sciences are truly outstanding". There are some very good contributions in clinical psychiatry on schizophrenia and affective disorder and some poor ones, for instance on puerperal illness, suicide and thanatology. The psychiatry of old age is accorded a

mere seven pages.

The laudable aim of reducing the size of this fourth edition (from 4,000 to just over 2,000 pages), although it makes this book slightly easier to handle, may have resulted in some loss of quality. For example, the third edition contains a clear account of existential psychotherapy whereas the briefer account in the fourth edition is almost incomprehensible. The chapter on suicide in the third edition includes a discussion of parasuicide and of the assessment of suicidal risk which I cannot find in the fourth edition. Earlier editions contained comprehensive lists of references; now only a few key ones are included, perhaps reducing its usefulness to those who are interested in the development of thinking on a particular topic.

Comprehensive textbooks have always been attractive and give the insecure student a sense of reassurance that all he needs to know is within those covers. The issuing of two reprints of the third edition and publication of a fourth must indicate the enterprise's popularity in the USA. On this side of the Atlantic similar sorts of books are appearing, but they tend to be more limited in scope and to deal separately with the basic sciences and the clinical psychiatry required for the Membership examinations. Their smaller size tends to make effective editing possible and the books are much easier to handle, but the overall cost to students may be more. This book would not be adequate for post-graduate students in this country, but gives useful insights into psychiatric practice in the USA. Because of this it might be a useful volume to include in the libraries of academic departments. It would be an inappropriate but dangerously attractive purchase for hospital libraries. For most students in this country, reference to one of the similar but less "comprehensive" volumes would provide a useful basis from which to read more widely.

ISOBEL R CARD

Theory and Treatment of Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia: Biomedical, Sociocultural, and Psychological Perspectives. Edited by Rev Steven W Emmett. (Pp 420; \$41.00.) New York: Brunner/Mazel Inc. Outside North America: Raven Press, 1985.

Despite the rather unusual credentials of the editor (psychotherapist and church minister), this 420 page volume provides a reasonably balanced view of the theory and treatment of anorexia nervosa and bulimia. Contributors include physicians, psychiatrists, psychotherapists, sociologists,