psychologists and feminists; such wide ranging interests reflect the generally held view that these disorders require an eclectic approach to management.

The book is divided into three parts covering biomedical, sociocultural and psychological perspectives and a conclusion dealing with outcome and future trends. Chapters covering the medical and neuroendocrine complications and biological treatment of anorexia and bulimia are factual and erudite, and accounts of different approaches to treatment are written informatively by experienced therapists. Two different psychodynamic theories are discussed, both being extensively referenced and well written, as is the feminist viewpoint of Susie Orbach.

There are a number of minor irritations. Several authors use the ugly neologism "bulimarexia" for bingeing and purging behaviour, which seems unnecessary and somewhat parochial. None of the authors attempts to define for readers what is meant by the term "bulimia" which may variously mean a symptom, a loosely defined syndrome or an operational definition. Detailed treatment plans include advice about culture specific activities such as withholding gum chewing privileges, which render them less useful to therapists outside the United States. Also, the recommendation that anorexics should keep meticulous records and weigh all their food to ensure adequate nutrition seems likely to exacerbate the already obsessional behaviour of these patients relating to food and eating. Descriptions of the sociocultural influences leading to anorexia include a diatribe against the model Twiggy whose appearance it is stated "is connected with the appalling increase of diagnosed cases of anorexia nervosa and bulimia". This is a surprisingly facile and naive statement for sociologists to make.

It is a truism that all textbooks are out of date by the time they are printed and this book is no exception. It is unfortunate that Theander's 25 year follow up of anorexics was published too late for inclusion in the "outcome" chapter.

However, apart from occasional examples of hyperbole, this book provides an informative, eclectic and well written account of anorexia and bulimia and should be read by specialists, students and even patients! Although the price may be prohibitive to the personal buyer, it should be recommended for acquisition by medical libraries.

ANNE FARMER

Localisation in Clinical Neurology. By Paul W Brazis, Joseph C Masdeu and Jose Biller. (Pp 429; \$32.50.) Boston: Little Brown. UK Distrib: Quest Publishing Agency, 1985.

Clinical localisation of lesions might be considered less important in the CT era but, in the brain at least, CT has actually added to our knowledge and made the clinical art more predictive. This book is a compilation of what is known about clinical localisation in neurology. About half is devoted to the cranial nerves and peripheral nervous system and about half to the brain and spinal cord.

The book is perhaps most valuable for reference. It is especially useful for the sort of infrequently needed facts that few of us can remember but most of us occasionally still need. It is less valuable as a book for the trainee practical physician to dip into for useful tips. In places, for example, so much detail is included that clinical priorities are lost. Thus in the description of spinal root syndromes, an S1 root lesion is reported, amongst other features, to cause weakness of over 16 listed muscles, but the characteristic clinical pattern which should allow the condition to be recognised in a few seconds is not emphasised at all.

It is a useful book for the right sort of person, perhaps better for the encyclopaedic student who wants to come top in a written examination than for the aspiring clinician.

J MEADOWS

Textbook of Neuropathology. Edited by Richard L Davis and David M Robertson. (Pp 882; £117.00.) London: Williams and Wilkins, 1985.

This is a North American contribution to the expanding field of publications in neuropathology: all the authors are from the USA and Canada. In the spectrum of textbooks, it occupies the middle-ground between the comprehensive and the concise, although, for example, it is much nearer to Greenfield's Neuropathology than to Escourolle and Poirier's basic text. This book covers nearly all aspects of neuropathology with the exception of tumours, peripheral nerves, muscles and the pituitary and pineal glands. This list of omission may seem unnecessarily long, but an explanation can easily be found why each chapter on these subjects has been left out. One fifth of the book is devoted to cell types and basic cellular reactions: these five chapters are up-to-date in concept and abundant in illustra-

tions. Congenital malformations, perinatal neuropathology, inherited metabolic disorders and toxic-metabolic disorders are adequately covered in separate chapters. Norberg and Gregorios's account of the effects of systemic diseases on the central nervous system is both comprehensive and illuminating. The chapters on demyelinating diseases by Raine is excellent in bringing together all the relevant information from clinical and experimental research. Two chapters deal with infections; one with viral and the other with bacterial, fungal and parasitic. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome makes its entry: its importance in neuropathology, by causing persistent infection of the brain, cannot be underestimated. It is a pity that there is no separate chapter on dementias. Although Alzheimer's disease merits special treatment by Terry in a concise and informative chapter, the other dementing conditions are dealt with under the heading of degenerative disorders and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease ends up with viral infections.

The chapters on circulatory disorders by Garcia and on cerebrospinal trauma by Hardman both follow a traditional pattern in describing these common disorders of the central nervous system.

The book is amply and well-illustrated. There are many electron micrographs in chapter 1 perhaps too many; unfortunately the same cannot be said about immunocytochemistry. A few more CT scans would also be in order. Overall, this book is a welcome addition to the neuropathologists' expanding library; it is recommended for histopathologists and clinicians alike.

PL LANTO