after this is space given to consideration of (as the authors put it in their preface) “diseases which express themselves by each syndrome.” Such a format necessarily implies that reference is made to individual topics in sections of the book which may be widely spaced apart. Fortunately, the index appears comprehensive.

The range of the book is quite astonishing. Apart from the topics covered in all neurological textbooks, there are fairly extensive sections on growth and development of the nervous system and the neurology of ageing; also on psychiatric aspects of neurological disease and vice versa. In a book of this range it would be impossible for any reviewer not to disagree with something: this one, to take an example, finds the author’s management of status epilepticus a little out of step with current practice in the UK. The only major criticism is that many of the line drawings are too small or too detailed to illuminate the text, and need special scrutiny on their own. This is unfortunate, as they are not of a quality to invite close attention.

These quibbles apart, there can be no doubt that this book should provide a model for medical textbooks in the future, not only those in neurology. It should be indispensable to any practising neurologist, neurological department or general medical library. It is not only readable; it is also stimulating. I can think of no other textbook which one could say is hard to put down: this one is!

G HARWOOD


The preface states: “These notes are deliberately concise. They are suitable for revision, but as an introduction must be supplemented by lectures, clinical experience and further reading. . . . Over the years they have been found useful by undergraduates and by postgraduates requiring to revise basic psychiatry quickly for examinations.”

With this I would agree. The whole of psychiatry is covered in the 169 pages of this book. Each topic is adequately dealt with, information is up to date and easily assimilable by anyone wanting to refresh the memory the night before an examination. Of necessity, some chapters are rather limited in their scope; the whole of child and adolescent psychiatry, for example, is dealt with in seven pages. But as a rapid overview this too will serve to excavate half-forgotten or deeply buried knowledge. The old faithfulness of affective illness and schizophrenia are adequately covered, although I would have liked to have seen a slightly greater emphasis on the current theories of the biochemical mechanisms underlying these.

The chapters on drug and physical treatments, drug abuse, organic states and old age have been rewritten for this edition and are now in line with modern thinking. In particular I was pleased to see a more realistic attitude towards drug abuse, reflecting the current view that not everyone who abuses heroin becomes permanently addicted (in the Vietnam study, only 7% were considered to be still drug dependent after three years). Information about the legal aspects of psychiatry has also been updated and takes into account the new Mental Health Act.

A useful revision book and one I would hope to see on most students shelves. P FENWICK


This is a collection of 54 relatively short contributions from authors actively involved in research into memory and the neural systems which are involved in remembering and forgetting. This subject area encompasses a large and varied array of topics: those included in this volume range from the purely behavioural studies of human cognitive psychology to single unit recordings and biochemical analyses of the concomitants of learning in animals. The majority of chapters focus on theoretical, clinical and methodological issues rather than on the minutiae of data presentation. The result is a collation of summary statements of position by a number of respected investigators and their surveys of the relevant literature.

The book is organised into three sections: the first deals with memory and its impairment in human subjects and the second with investigations into the neuropsychology of non-human primate memory. The third is a somewhat heterogeneous collection of chapters entitled “Studies of Memory in Non Primates: Physiology, Pharmacology and Behaviour”. This organisation according to “species” has limited usefulness; this is especially the case in the final section where there is little overlap between many of the problems and issues considered by the authors. Each section is very briefly introduced by the editors and the relevant areas of investigation are sketched out. Although this serves as a framework for subsequent reading, more detailed editorial commentary would have been of considerable use in highlighting the points of similarity, and difference between the various contributors and approaches. This is particularly the case since there is a general lack of cross referencing between contributions in the volume. Those interested in rapid reference will find the excellent index of considerable value, but the absence of abstracts and limited use of summaries at the end of chapters is likely to be a source of frustration. In general the volume is probably best considered an analogous to an extended journal “special issue” covering a wider range of topics than would be possible in many established journals rather than an integrated perspective on the current state of research into the substrate of memory.

The first section, on the neuropsychology of human memory, consists of 25 chapters the majority being written by established researchers in the field. Although this section is reasonably comprehensive there are other viewpoints which would have been welcome in a volume of this type, perhaps the most surprising omissions in this case being Squire and Butters’ own views. The primary focus is on pathological conditions resulting in impaired event memory although normal memory and forgetting are also dealt with. The patterns of relative preservation, and relative loss of memory in various amnestic states are given detailed consideration and analysis and the basis of these dissociations are discussed in terms of differences in storage, process, strategy and neurochemistry. Due weight is given to the difficulties inherent in interpreting data from a heterogenous group of patients some of whom are multiply handicapped. The second section compliments the first and discusses single unit recording and lesion studies in primates. These contributions are of uniformly high quality and document the recent progress that has been made in the fractionation and dissociation of components of “memory”. These studies go somewhat beyond those reported in the section on human memory in investigating the role of cortical processing systems and their interaction with subcortical mechanisms.

In the third section a wide variety of topics is dealt with in the course of 22 chapters. They range from lesion and single unit...
recording studies in rodents to in vitro investigations of LTP in hippocampal tissue and protein synthesis correlates of learning. The lesion and recording studies document the development of experimental techniques which have led to some correspondence between the various strands of research into vertebrate memory function.

The chapters on neuropathological biochemical and pharmacological approaches to memory were of considerable interest serving to highlight the complexities of the processes which may underlie the modulation and development of "memories". The chapters by Morris and Baker and by Rose provide useful discussions of the complex methodological problems faced by investigations attempting to relate changes at the level of the sinapse or molecule to alterations in behaviour.

The Neuropsychology of Memory provides a broad ranging collection of articles dealing with research issues, methods and problems. The contributors and the editors are to be congratulated in providing up-to-date state of the art surveys with many citations to work in press or published in 1984. Overall this volume is likely to prove a useful source reference to those involved either in research, or in teaching at an advanced level.

RA McCARTHY

Trauma of the Central Nervous System (Seminars in Neurological Surgery Series.)

This significant volume is the twelfth in a series most aptly named Seminars in Neurological Surgery: it comprises 27 chapters by 81 contributors, all but three of the chapters hailing exclusively from the USA. The exceptions being one English, one Japanese and one joint Scottish-American venture. The book is well produced; all illustrations and figures are clear and there are copious seminal references. Seventeen chapters concern head injury and nine spinal injury. The book ends with an excellent review of all aspects of neural trauma covered by the contributors. The only significant omission is rehabilitation, serving by its absence to emphasise the inadequacy of rehabilitation facilities in many countries, including the UK. Both clinical and laboratory aspects are covered and several original studies of quality are included; indeed, the selection illustrates nicely the relationship between laboratory and clinical research in current neurosurgical endeavours. There are useful descriptions of the functions of the CNS Trauma Research Programmes of the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, and of the University of Virginia's Traumatic Coma Data Bank. Several clinical and pathological studies emphasise the continuum of the spectrum of head injury from the minimal to the most severe. Valuable chapters on recovery of memory and cognitive function explore the fascinating differences in response to injury shown by the immature brain compared to that of the older child or adult and further dispel that that most naive, but often uttered neuropathological platitudes "children do better than adults after head injury". They do not, they just do differently. The Pennsylvania model of closed head injury elegantly delineates the range of diffuse axonal injury and its clinicopathological correlates. There is a useful review of current concepts of the blood-brain barrier and its response to injury and interesting contributions on pathophysiological and metabolic consequences of spinal cord injury. The value of peripheral nerve as an experimental model is explored as is the potential of nalaxone and thyrotropin-releasing hormone in the therapy of spinal cord injury.

All the aforementioned contributions are interesting, valid and well presented but perhaps the real value of this book is that it states unequivocally the limited achievements of aggressive medical management of cranial and spinal injury and places CNS trauma firmly in the sphere of public health, where there is considerable need and scope for serious epidemiological and sociological studies aimed at reducing the number of people sustaining these devastating injuries. This book is highly recommended to neuroscientists, traumatologists and intensivists involved in the management of cranial and spinal trauma.

JAG PUNT


This textbook should provide the undergraduate with an appreciation of the basic concepts of the organisation and function of the nervous system. The initial chapters are designed to orientate the student by explaining the terminology used, the gross anatomy of the brain and its basic elements. Brief discussions follow on the development of the nervous system and the essentials of neurophysiology.

The bulk of the text is devoted to neuroanatomy with numerous informative and well labelled illustrations. Constant reference is made to applied neuroanatomy with examples of clinical and neuroanatomical correlations. Though the text describing the basic neuroanatomy is generally clear, that describing the clinical features is sometimes imprecise and may be confusing. Nevertheless, the literary style is very readable and it is particularly reassuring to learn that the cells of the mature taste buds are replaced every 200 to 300 hours. Each chapter concludes with a short list of well chosen references.

The authors have succeeded in their aim to produce an introductory text with an "overview "neurobiology". It does however seem a pity that a 300 page introductory paperback has to be priced at nearly £20 thereby possibly limiting its exposure to its audience who might find it most valuable.

PD THOMPSON

Notice

Authors who intend to submit papers for publication in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry are reminded of the notice which has appeared in each issue since October 1985 on the inside front cover. Papers rejected by the Editor will not be returned to authors but will be kept for three months and then destroyed by shredding.