extremely expensive volume containing the author's ideas on microvascular surgery for intracranial aneurysms based upon over a decade of personal experience. The illustrations that necessarily occupy a large proportion are in the main good, although some are vitiated by being in an anatomical rather than in a surgical projection. Others are in an excessively schematic or artistic style which does not really contribute. A significant number, including those showing trays of instruments and the author operating, are superbflous. In some introductory sections the author makes observations on the pathophysiology of cerebral blood flow following aneurysm rupture without any really appropriate or valuable discussion of the implications. Despite several attempts this reviewer was left unclear on the author's view on the timing of operative intervention. In many places the English is somewhat stilted. The surgical approaches to a wide range of intracranial aneurysm are described and various aspects of technique mentioned but, the illustrations notwithstanding, the points made would not be readily understood by the inexperienced. Some ambitious microvascular anastomoses are described but no indication is given as to how frequently they have been used in practice and, as throughout, there is no analysis of results.

It is difficult to know who might benefit from this volume: the established surgeon will either agree or disagree and the novice will be unlikely to appreciate the points made. The presently available range of assistant's eyepieces, closed circuit television and video equipment for the operating microscope leave the teaching of operative technique firmly where it started—in the operating room. This book cannot be recommended.

J PUNT


Behavioural neurology is a large and difficult subject and is mastered by very few neurologists, certainly in the UK. For any who wish to make the effort this is perhaps the best general introduction at the moment. After an especially well thought out introductory chapter on anatomy and other basic aspects there is a good chapter on mental status examination, supplemented by a brief referenced description of many of the more commonly used special neuropsychological tests. There follows a series of chapters on different aspects of cerebral dysfunction. Dr Mesulam who contributes a substantial section of the book, notably the early chapters just mentioned, can be congratulated on his choice of co-authors who all excel to a greater or lesser degree. Together they have produced an excellent volume more or less comprehensive and not too psychologically orientated to inhibit the dedicated neurological student.

J MEADOWS


This book records the papers presented at the successful Evoked Potentials Symposium which was held in Rome in 1984, though curiously the published work makes no mention of that meeting. The papers are grouped under the usual four headings according to stimulus modality: somatosensory, auditory, visual and multimodality evoked potentials. Articles summarising current ideas by acknowledged leaders in the field are interspersed with data on a wide variety of clinical conditions. Thus we find Desmedt on SEP generator sources, Starr on the auditory pathway origins of the brainstem responses and Celesia on VEP and posintron emission tomography correlation, as well as authoritative papers by the Cracco, Matthews, Jones, Halliday, Kjaer and Bodis-Wolner, to name a few of the well known contributors. Not all of this work is especially new of course, and one or two of the illustrations are very familiar indeed, but I found it helpful and convenient to have these papers in a single volume. It is interesting to compare this book with Clinical Applications of Evoked Potentials in Neurology (editors Courjon, Mauguire and Revol), a work well known to EP buffs and also the proceedings of a conference, in Lyon in 1980. The most obvious, though not particularly surprising difference between the present volume and the earlier one is the decline in papers about EPs in multiple sclerosis: only two compared with 21. Less too on long-latency event related potentials than in 1980; this certainly would have surprised me six years ago when there were ideas around about P300 latency providing some sort of objective measure of dementia, but clinically at least, promise has still to be fulfilled here. One might have expected more on evoked potentials in neurosurgical monitoring by now but though auditory and somatosensory evoked potentials have established roles we still lack a visual stimulus which balances sensitivity and specificity successfully in the operating theatre. Notable increases since 1980 are papers on clinical applications of EPs other than demyelinating diseases: for example Friedreich's ataxia, diabetes mellitus, neuropsychics, pseudotumour cerebri among others. There are also useful articles on two important growth areas: the electroretinogram, both to flash and pattern stimulation and central motor conduction: there Rossini's "unifocal" technique of low-voltage transcutaneous cortical stimulation is described.

This book is a useful addition to any evoked potentials laboratory library if one can afford it; it contains reviews of the basic science and many suggestions for clinical applications, generally with sufficient information on methodology to allow one to try out a new technique without further recourse to the literature.

NMF MURRAY


It is apparent that there is much common ground between neurology and psychiatry. The traditional distinction between "organic" disorders (neurology) and "functional" disorders (psychiatry) is increasingly difficult to sustain. The borderland is sometimes referred to by psychiatrists as "neuro-psychiatry", "organic or biological psychiatry", and by neurologists as "behavioural neurology" and "neuropsychology". There may well be subtle differences between the meanings and implications of these terms but broadly they encompass the border zone between neurology and psychiatry which this book attempts to explore. In the UK at present this borderland is mainly populated by psychiatrists and the subject hardly exists as a neurological discipline. In the USA on the other hand neurologists perhaps more than psychiatrists have contributed to the field, but American psychiatry is currently moving steadily in this direction away from its previous psychodynamic emphasis. It is appropriate therefore that the book is written jointly by an American neurologist and
psychiatrist. Although it is not clearly stated, its style and content appear to be aimed particularly at the young neurologist or psychiatrist in training as well as the medical student.

The introduction emphasises the influence of environment on brain function. The main content is broken up into six chapters. The first deals with seizure disorders with special emphasis on complex partial seizures and the cognitive and behavioral disturbances with which they may be associated. The second is concerned with the limbic system and violence. The third explores schizophrenia as an organic disorder of brain function. The fourth covers disorders of intellectual functioning in terms of anatomical locus and aetiological considerations. The superficial nature of some aspects of the book is illustrated by the fifth, which attempts to cover movement disorder, depression, psychoses and sleep in one chapter with particular reference to biochemical, mainly monoamine, hypotheses. Finally, there is a brief chapter "Distinguishing neurologic from neuropsychiatric disorders" with reference to hyperventilation syndrome, hysteria and headache. The longer chapters contain between 100 and 200 references mainly drawn from the American literature.

The emphasis throughout is on the neuroend of the neuropsychiatric spectrum in keeping with the title of the book. The reader will find little here about the psychosocial roots of violence or the role of family or society in schizophrenia or the psychopathology of epilepsy.

The success of the book is illustrated by the fact that this is the third edition since 1974. The authors are to be congratulated not only for the valuable integration of their respective interests but also for their relatively early recognition for the need of a modern book on this increasingly topical subject.

EH REYNOLDS


The first edition of this book was well received. The second has doubled in size. What has been gained or lost? It is a compilation by 47 contributors who provide a comprehensive range of expertise and viewpoint looking at the psychology and psychiatry of childhood and adolescence. The danger with such an endeavour is that the cost becomes prohibitive, cohesion is reduced, and there is lack of uniformity of style. I was pleasantly surprised to find that, probably through consummate editorial skill, such pitfalls have been avoided. Chapter by chapter it is scholarly, well referenced and deals with the most complex issues with lucid simplicity.

The book provides a critical review of the current state of knowledge of every major theme in this rapidly expanding field. Its strength reside in the fact that not only does it debate the relevant theoretical issues, but that it is also essentially pragmatic in focus and tends to adhere to the principle of humanising technical detail wherever possible.

Readers will be suitably informed about influences of developmental and intellectual theories, clinical assessment and clinical syndromes; approaches to treatment, and always about theoretical and research issues. In all of these the viewpoint is free from prejudice. There is no doubt that it is a carefully balanced textbook.

The litmus test of such a volume is whether it becomes merely an advanced library reference book or a modern comprehensive textbook widely valued by postgraduates in this field. I applied the litmus test and discovered that a high proportion of postgraduates with whom I am in touch already own their own copy. One must conclude that despite its almost encyclopaedic proportions, its other qualities make it an invaluable textbook for practitioners and trainees belonging to the many disciplines working in the child field irrespective of their theoretical or psychotherapeutic standpoints.

It is predictable that like the first, this second edition will become the standard textbook in the subject for the next decade.

ISRAEL KOLVIN

Ultrastructure of Brain Tumors & Biopsies:—

This book comprises essentially a compendium of nearly 300 electron photomicrographs approximately two-thirds of which are devoted to neoplasia and related conditions and is arranged in sections covering the principal intrinsic tumours of the central nervous system, pineal germinoma, malignant epithelial and mesenchymal tumours, dermoid, lymphomas and allied conditions, nerve sheath tumours, fibromatoses, meningioma, vascular tumours, pituitary adenoma and craniopharyngioma. The remainder of the atlas is devoted to inborn errors of metabolism, Alzheimer's disease, Pick's disease, progressive supranuclear palsy, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, assorted viral and other infections, and tissue reaction to injury. For each condition a brief introductory note on the histopathology, ultrastructure and distinguishing features precedes the illustrative photomicrographs, and each photomicrograph is accompanied by an explanatory note. The book opens with a brief preface outining the use of electron microscopy in diagnostic cerebral histopathology and a short bibliography accompanies the introductory notes in most chapters.

Despite the large number of illustrations, this atlas is not particularly informative. The quality of a substantial proportion of the photomicrographs is indifferent; the majority possessing a prominent grey background and in many cases, the contrast is inadequate to reveal fine detail satisfactorily. Moreover, in many instances, the preservation of the tissue was too poor for a satisfactory demonstration of much ultrastructural detail. In only nine illustrations are arrows or other symbols used to bring features to the reader's attention, and there is a similar paucity of insets to illustrate small but important details at high magnification.

The text is likewise not entirely satisfactory. In a number of places, the descriptions are somewhat confused and occasionally misleading, and the style is generally rather tedious. In some respects, it would appear the reader is expected to possess a considerable body of specialist knowledge, while in certain passages, the author has used expressions suitable for a reader completely unfamiliar with electron microscopy.

The overall impression of this book is that not much critical thought has gone into its preparation, and, despite its size, it does not compare very favourably with other atlases of ultrastructural pathology nor does it usefully add to what can be gleaned in the standard neuropathology textbooks. Its curious feature is the absence of the author's professional position and address.