Eating Disorders: Prevalence and Treatment. Edited by SW Touys and PJV Peumont. (Pp 160; £24.00.) London: Williams & Wilkins, 1985.

An appropriate sub-title of this book might be *Eating Disorders—Sydney Style*, as 15 of the 17 authors work in that city. As with all work based on symposia (this one was held at the University of Sydney where 12 of the contributors are on the faculty) there is a tendency to repetition, and unevenness of style, and even occasional inconsistency. For example two of the four chapters on bulimia (6 and 8) begin with a list of the diagnostic criteria for the condition. Similarly two consecutive chapters on obesity (9 and 10) discuss how best to define obesity; unfortunately they came up with rather different answers, Truswell preferring the Quetelet Index (Wt in kg/ht in m^2) while Caterson recommends the Metropolitan Life Insurance table of Ideal Weight.

While certain of the chapters take the form of critical reviews, with reference to the Australian scene where possible, others are descriptions of specific scientific enquiries. Of the reviews I particularly enjoyed the two on the treatment of obesity; one by Kalucy entitled *The significance to behavioural therapies of radical treatments for massive obesity*, the other by Ley on *The effectiveness of psychological treatments for obesity*.

TREVOR SILVERSTONE

Tumours of the Brain. Edited by Norman M Bleebe. (Pp 223; DM 180.00.) Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 1985.

This rather expensive volume contains the thirteen papers presented at the seventh annual multidisciplinary symposium on clinical oncology at the Royal College of Radiologists, held in London in February 1985, to discuss malignant brain tumours. The product is very readable but there is wide variation in the depth of the various contributions, as if the authors themselves are not quite sure whom they are writing for.

A superficial chapter on classical pathology is followed by a discussion of the value of immunocytochemistry in tumour diagnosis when classical histology fails. The imaging section critically explores the correlation between degree of malignancy and CT scan appearance, and highlights the very real danger when relying on the CT scan of missing benign pathology. The value of magnetic

resonance imaging for tumours in the brain stem, posterior fossa and spinal cord is demonstrated, with some discussion of the use of paramagnetic contrast agents. The application of positron emission tomography to the study of the physiology of human brain tumours, is presented without any indication of the difficulties in applying the complex mathematical models to such pathological situations, particularly in the case of glucose utilisation.

The pioneering experience of the Bristol group in using monoclonal antibodies for the detection and possible treatment of malignant brain tumours is accompanied by clear discussion of the limitations. There is an exciting postscript suggesting that such radiolabelled agents may be useful in the treatment of leptomeningeal malignancy. The chapters on surgery, treatment of gliomas in children, normal tissue tolerance of the brain to radiation therapy, pharmacology and results of brain tumour chemotherapy, are lucid and well referenced summaries. The chapter on third ventricular tumours is marred by the unsubstantiated suggestion that stereotactic biopsy of pineal tumours should become routine, as it is "associated with an acceptably low morbidity". There is no reasoned debate comparing this approach with the more conventional management of pineal tumours that uses staged radiotherapy in combination with repeated CT scanning and shunting if required; surgery is reserved for tumours or unusual lesions that continue to progress despite radiotherapy.

JD PICKARD

Neuropharmacology '85. Edited by LK Kelen, K Magyar & ES Vizi. (Pp 349; \$31.25.) Budapest: Akademiai Kiado, 1985.

Neuropharmacology '85 was, I suspect, compiled in 1983 and only published last year. The volume is dedicated to Professor Joseph Knoll on the occasion of his 60th birthday. It contains a miscellany of papers dealing with all aspects of neuropharmacology but with a detailed section on monoamine oxidase inhibitors, a field to which Professor Knoll has made a special contribution with the development of deprenyl.

The book is not one I would recommend to anyone. The camera-ready contributions appear to have been prepared without reference to any standard format giving a poor

impression to the reader. In the review copy, most of the preface and two pages of the list of contents are missing. The subjects covered are so diverse that there can be few individuals who would contemplate reading the volume. Many of the individual contributions are well prepared and contain interesting information within the confines of the 6–8 pages allowed. However, this is not a volume which will become a reference work nor does its content reflect the state of neuropharmacology in 1985.

P JENNER

Advanced Intraoperative Technologies in Neurosurgery. Edited by VA Fasano. (Pp 307; DM 132.00.) Vienna: Springer-Verlag, 1985.

This is a multiple author book concerning four technological adjuncts to operative neurosurgery namely intraoperative ultrasound, laser neurosurgery, ultrasonic aspiration and localised hyperthermia for cerebral tumour. The book is divided into four sections but over 200 of the 300 pages are devoted to laser neurosurgery. It is probably directed at practising neurosurgeons and includes a few practical and helpful chapters by Dr George Dohrmann on ultrasound and Dr Cerullo on the use of lasers for removal of extra-axial tumours of the brain and spinal cord.

The section on laser neurosurgery is of variable quality and although it contains some chapters of practical use to the neurosurgeon, it is weighed down by too much undergraduate physics and pseudo-scientific "Histological Phenomenology". Some of the more imaginative uses of the laser are described including stereotactic excision of gliomas, the use of laser in nerve repair, the removal of atheromatous plaques and obliteration of intracranial aneurysms. The chapter on ultrasonic aspiration gives a clear explanation of the mechanics of the instrument but will be of little value to anyone who has used the instrument regularly. The final section on localised hyperthermia for cerebral tumours introduces the reader who knows nothing of the subject to this technique indicating that it is technologically possible but of dubious value to the patient.

I am afraid I found this book quite dull and barely worth a selective cursory glance.

RA JOHNSTON