are discussed, reflecting the differences in practice on the two sides of the Atlantic.

Alzheimer's disease is well reviewed and generously referenced giving a comprehensive overview of the subject. Most chapters covering aspects of dementia begin by highlighting the problem posed by increasing numbers of demented due to an aging population, and this chapter is no exception.

The final section entitled *Neurobehaviour* explores hemisphere function and dominance particularly with regard to language. Aphasia, crossed aphasia, neglect and agnosia are covered. Localisation of function and the nature of the defects in agnosia are usefully discussed. The clinical sequelae of right hemisphere damage have long fascinated the neurologist and the further developments in the understanding of those sensory phenomena are of considerable interest.

Books of review articles may not be particularly innovative. However, informed authorities contributing well referenced texts on topics in which there have been recent developments provide useful and informative reading and may guide further in-depth exploration of the subject.

IEC ORMEROD

Role of the Sympathetic Nervous System in the Lower Urinary Tract: A Workshop held in London, April 1985. (Clinical Science Vol 70, Supplement No 14.) (Pp 81; £16.00.) London: Medical Research Society and the Biochemical Society. Distrib: Colchester, Essex: Biochemical Society Book Depot, 1986.

This slim volume is particularly welcome to clinicians and researchers in the field, as the contributions of the various authorities effectively pull together the available information on this most confusing area. The area is confusing both to basic scientists who find profound species differences in the physiology and pharmacology of the lower urinary tract, and to clinicians who have become aware that here the sympathetic nerves do not serve a simple function and do not work in a simple way; there are important sex differences and important cotransmitters.

Evidence has for some years been accumulating (and is here reviewed) that ACh, ATP and various peptides are released by pelvic sympathetic nerves in addition to NA, and modulate sympathetic adrenergic and parasympathetic cholinergic nerve function as well as possessing important independent actions of their own; and that the smooth muscles involved carry a range of

receptor types. Furthermore, in human material there is evidence that disorders of lower urinary function caused for example by outflow obstruction or spinal cord injury can cause significant tertiary alterations in receptor populations and autonomic nerve function. All this has important implications for practical drug therapy, particularly in disorders of urinary voiding.

Among the 12 substantive contributions there is a good balance of clinical and academic departments: five emanate from departments of urology, two each from departments of anatomy and pharmacology, and one each from a clinical MRC unit, a spinal injuries unit and Pfizers (who organised the one-day workshop in April 1985 from which the book is derived). There is not a dud amongst them, and each is of the nature of a review of an area where the authors can also contribute personal experience. The contributions are well referenced and there is an index. As is so often the case, the verbatim discussions, which were no doubt meaningful at the time, are disappointing to a reader, who will have his own questions which he cannot ask!

DN RUSHTON

Aids to the Examination of the Peripheral Nervous System. The Editorial Committee for the Guarantors of Brain. (Pp 61; £2.95.) London: Bailliere Tindall, 1986.

The Guarantors of Brain have done a great service by issuing a new edition of this classical slim monograph. The previous version, which was thoroughly revised between 1972 and 1975, has been modified and a new diagram of the lumbosacral plexus has been included. It is worth recalling the history that led to the production of this indispensable volume, that has guided neurologists for many years. One can do no better than to quote the Preface of the present volume: "In 1940 Dr George Riddoch was Consultant Neurologist to the Army. He realised the necessity of providing centres to deal with peripheral nerve injuries during the war. In collaboration with Professor Learmonth, Professor of Surgery at the University of Edinburgh, peripheral nerve injury centres were established at Gogarburn near Edinburgh and at Killearn near Glasgow. Professor Learmonth wished to have an illustrated guide on peripheral nerve injuries for the use of surgeons working in general hospitals. In collaboration with Dr Ritchie Russell, a few photographs demonstrating the testing of individual mus-

cles were taken in 1941, but Dr Ritchie Russell returned to Oxford in 1942 and was replaced by Dr McArdle, Neurologist to Scottish Command. The photographs were completed by Dr McArdle at Gogarburn with the help of the Department of Medical Illustration at the University of Edinburgh. About 20 copies in loose-leaf form were circulated to surgeons in Scotland.

In 1943 Professor Learmonth and Dr Riddoch added the diagrams illustrating the innervation of muscles by various peripheral nerves modified from Pitres and Testut, also the diagrams of cutaneous sensory distributions and dermatomes. This work was published by the Medical Research Council in 1943 as *Aids to the Investigation of Peripheral Nerve Injuries* (War Memorandum No 7). It became a standard work and over the next 30 years many thousands of copies were printed.

This new edition can be obtained from Holt-Saunders Ltd., 1 St Ann's Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 3UN UK

CD MARSDEN

Vascular Aphasia. By Joseph M Tonkonogy. (Pp 220; £29.95.) London: MIT Press, 1986.

This estimable monograph describes linguistic syndromes following stroke and is rich in clinical and pathological detail and embellished by shrewd observation clearly based on practical experience in addition to a critical command of the aphasia literature. The author uses the anatomically based Wernicke-Lichtheim model of aphasia as a framework on which to build a more linguistically detailed syndrome classification together with precise anatomical correlative data. Due emphasis is placed on the changes in language during recovery from vascular aphasia and the difficulties in correlating aspects of linguistic breakdown with lesions of the cortex, subcortex and often inevitably both.

The book has much to offer all disciplines converging on aphasiology and is equally informative to neurologists already familiar with the approach to aphasia contained in the writings of the late Norman Geschwind and Frank D Benson. The level of linguistic description is pleasingly lucid and within the competence of the neurologist who may find psycholinguistic literature a major challenge to his comprehension.

D NEARY