of reference should further information be required on these conditions. The chapter on vascular disorders of the spinal cord was well written, up to date and covered all vascular disorders from infarction to extramedullary haematomas and arteriovenous malformations. The only slight criticism of this otherwise highly readable chapter was that the author did not quite make clear the distinction between "pure" intramedullary arteriovenous malformations and dural arteriovenous fistulae.

Part II commences with an excellent chapter by Leonard Malis on spinal cord tumours. This was obviously based on the author's huge wealth of clinical experience and I would recommend this chapter for anyone concerned with the management of spinal cord tumours. The illustrations are plentiful and of high quality throughout the chapter. There are little pearls of advice on diagnosis and surgical treatment, for instance on the removal of intramedullary haemangioblastomas without getting into the uncontrollable haemorrhage that can occur. Dr Malis mentions the subject of anterior decompression of metastatic tumours of the vertebral column, a subject which is perhaps gaining more attention than it has done in the past. Following on from this is a short chapter on the pathology of different types of spinal tumour which makes up for its brevity with a list of 247 references. The many aspects of systemic cancer involving the spinal cord are discussed including myelopathy secondary to chemotherapy, radiation myelopathy, and non-metastatic effects on the spinal cord. Unfortunately this chapter still recommends pantopaque myelography and there is virtually no mention of MRI as a vastly superior method of diagnosing this problem.

Slightly out of place in this section on spinal cord tumours is a very good chapter on infections of the spinal cord. With the exception of epidural abscesses these infections are regarded more as an orthopaedic condition in some neurosurgical centres in the United Kingdom, making this chapter very useful for neurosurgical trainees in this position. Once again, however, there is little mention of MRI.

In the second half of part II chapters are included on syphilis of the spinal cord, tetanus, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, the stiff man syndrome, toxic metabolic and deficiency diseases and demyelinating diseases affecting the spinal cord. The merits of including these under the heading of infections and cancer is certainly open to question and I regarded these final six chapters as a comforting source of reference should I

require any further information on these conditions. However, for neurosurgeons particularly interested in spinal conditions, they should at least be aware of the neurological alternative to surgical diagnoses and the chapters on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and demyelinating diseases certainly help.

In general I found this a very good source of information on diseases of the spinal cord to be found either in the text or the comprehensive list of references at the end of each chapter. In the preface the editor indicates it is designed to appeal to those involved in laboratory work, clinical work, and in the classroom. My feeling is that he has achieved this purpose. Its price almost precludes it being bought by anyone but the medical libraries, or those with a strong interest in diseases of the spinal cord and who are looking for a modern source of information on these.

RA JOHNSTON

Rehabilitation of Memory. By Barbara A Wilson. (Pp 259; £19.95.) London: The Guildford Press, 1986.

In this book the author describes an approach to the rehabilitation of memory in patients with acquired brain injury, and reports a series of studies carried out at the Rivermead Rehabilitation Centre in Oxford on which her PhD thesis was based.

In the first four chapters, the rationale of the book is given together with brief reviews of relevant areas in neuropsychology, cognitive psychology and behavioural psychology. A practical, problem-solving approach to the rehabilitation of memory problems emerges which takes into account theoretical principles from these three areas of psychology. A number of studies carried out by the author and her colleagues are then described in the next seven chapters. A description of the development of the Rivermead Behavioural Memory Test is given together with its rationale and results of a pilot study. This battery is designed to provide a much needed tool for measuring memory performance in everyday living and is in its early stages of development; its usefulness and range of application remains to be determined especially for less severely damaged patients whose everyday problems are often more subtle. Chapters six to eight have been published previously as journal articles and a book chapter. They comprise a series of single case studies, on the use-

fulness of visual imagery in improving name learning, on success and failure in the rehabilitation of memory in a CVA patient and on relearning letters of the alphabet in a case of acquired dyslexia. Three chapters then report on investigations into the PQRS strategy for increasing the recall of prose, a group study on the use of visual imagery to improve learning of word lists and an interesting study which compares the effectiveness of four mnemonic strategies in groups of brain damaged and non-brain damaged subjects. A final chapter summarises the importance of utilising theory and methodology from different areas of psychology in an approach to rehabilitation and considers future directions and the cost-benefit ratio of this type of intervention. An overview discussing implications of the reported research for theories of memory might have been useful.

The book is written clearly and in a style which should allow a wide readership. A reasonable proportion of the author's research has been published elsewhere; however, it is useful now to have this work readily accessible in a single volume. All who have an interest in the rehabilitation of patients with acquired brain damage should find this book to be of use, and it can be highly recommended.

TM MCMILLAN

Selective Neuronal Death. CIBA Foundation Symposium 126. Edited by Gregory Böck and Maevae O'Connor. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 1987.

This book results from an international symposium held in London in April 1986, organised by the CIBA Foundation. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss mechanisms of neuronal death during normal development and in disease states. There were 26 participants engaged in neuroscientific research in the fields of biology, chemistry, physiology and pathology. The book contains 14 assorted chapters of established fact, recent experimental observation and speculation. Of great interest is the publication of the free discussion periods that followed each presentation. These include additional stimulating ideas and are particularly enjoyable to read. The first two chapters summarise some of the many human and animal neurodegenerative diseases showing distinct patterns of selective neuronal death, the mechanisms of which

are unknown. Current enthusiasm for such a meeting stems partly from a better understanding of specific morphological changes, frequently putative cytoskeletal aberrations; but only amyloid is discussed in any depth. Neurofibrillary tangles, Lewy bodies and so on, are only briefly mentioned. Another stimulus for the meeting is recent observation concerning a number of biological and toxic experimental models of selective cell death, and this forms the main subject matter of the book.

Selected biological areas include programmed cell death during normal development in insects and birds. The role of endocrine factors, trophic substances and normal neuronal activity are demonstrated. Experimental intracerebral transplants are considered in the context of factors that may regulate neuronal growth, and information applicable to human cerebral transplant work may also derive from this work. One interesting observation concerns the development of cytoskeletal aberrations (Hirano bodies and phosphorylated neurofilament epitopes within perikarya) in long-term transplants of cerebral embryonic tissue to peripheral nerve. Three notable recent developments are included; these are MPTP as a model for Parkinson's disease, the amino acids, BOAA and BMAA, that have been associated with lathyrism and Guam amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and other excitatory amino acids which may be relevant to epilepsy and various neurodegenerations.

The inclusion within this text of diverse types of neuronal decay, including that of the song nucleus of the finch, seems distant from neurology, but the shortfall of reasonable hypotheses for so many degenerative diseases suggests that we may have to search widely for ideas. We should hope that future progress warrants further publications of this kind. Neuroscientists should find this book stimulating and many physicians will be interested in the more clinically relevant chapters.

WRG GIBB

Psychiatric Differential Diagnosis. By Jeremy M Pfeffer, Gillian Waldron, with contributions from JC Cookson. (Pp 198; £14.95.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987.

This book is written by two consultant psychiatrists at the London Hospital and is aimed at medical students, general prac-

titioners and general physicians as well as psychiatrists in training. Neurologists could also find it useful. It is organised around symptoms rather than diagnostic categories, and symptoms as a patient might express them rather than as a psychiatrist tends to categorise them. So, for example, there is a chapter entitled "failure to cope", others on "funny movements" and "strange ideas". Each chapter then lists the common and uncommon causes of each symptom and ends with a case history to illustrate one of the commoner conditions responsible.

It is a very good book, in my opinion, one of the best of the cheaper books on psychiatry for a wider market than I have come across. Its merits are a clear and not too technical style. It is also evident that the authors are writing from considerable practical experience and not just paraphrasing heavier tomes. They also manage to condense complicated psychopathological notions into a few crisp sentences. The tables of causes and diagnostic criteria are well ordered. The authors manage to steer a sensible path between providing too much and too little information in these.

There are one or two errors and instances of false emphasis in the chapters dealing with the psychopathology of thinking and movement. They mention only three types of "normal" thinking—conceptual thinking, imaginative thinking and derisive thinking. This is a gross oversimplification of the manifold nature of thinking. They use a new term "disorders of thought possession" to cover thought broadcasting, thought insertion, thought withdrawal, thought blocking and obsessions. Although the former three could be regarded as originating from a disordered sense of ownership of thoughts, this is not true for the latter two. Their next major category—"disorders of thought form"—are considered as "problems in the construction of language ... grammar, syntax and the appropriate use of words". Some authorities do regard formal thought disorder as a disorder of language, not thinking, but this should be explained, and in any case disturbed grammar and syntax (which are anyway synonymous) are not the main element in this. The chapter on "funny movements" is also idiosyncratic, but as catatonia is such a mysterious condition their classification is no better or worse than any other. To include stupor amongst "funny movements", however, is rather overdoing their emphasis on keeping to lay terms.

Despite these few quibbles I can heartily recommend this book.

JC CUTTING

Sleep, Aging and Related Disorders. Interdisciplinary Topics in Gerontology Vol 22. (Symposium on Sleep Disorders, Hamburg, Sept 1985.) Edited by W Emser and D Kurtz. (Pp 166; £56.90.) Basel: Karger, 1987.

Wilse Webb, who writes the introduction to this book, is uncertain whether to classify his own increasing golf handicap, wrinkling brow and receding hair as the result of age or disease. This problem, in establishing what is normal and what is not, is central to the study of sleep in old people, which assumes major importance in the definition of pathological sleep apnoea syndromes as well as in the determination of the cardiovascular and respiratory factors that result in sudden death at night. In the last decade there has been a ten-fold increase in scientific papers about sleep in the elderly, added to by this publication from a 1985 Hamburg symposium. The series title is *Interdisciplinary Topics in Gerontology*. I imagine all readers of the JNNP can accurately predict the results. Outstanding and clinically useful chapters are in the minority. These include work from Sydney and Strasbourg on breathing during sleep. The section on the use of CPAP from Sullivan and his colleagues is, as would be expected from their introduction and vast experience with this technique, required reading for anyone treating obstructive sleep apnoea. The second type of chapter, the honest and painstaking review, which however leaves many unanswered questions about the real facts, is usually to be found in any conference proceedings, and this is no exception. Is tryptophan really a hypnotic, and if so, why do some selective 5-HT antagonists such as ritanserin markedly increase slow-wave sleep? The third category is the "our results" section, usually if not always of ephemeral interest only. Can it really be true that the EEG is a useful predictor of life expectancy in Alzheimer's disease? And how did 28 demented patients take to 24-hour rectal temperature monitoring to assess their circadian rhythms? Altogether very uneven, not worth £56.90 of my money.

JD PARKES

AIDS and HIV infection. Clinics in Immunology and Allergy Vol 6 No 3. Edited by Anthony J Pinching. (Pp 687; £17.50.) Eastbourne: WB Saunders, 1986.

This work is aimed at a wide readership: the practicing physician both at junior and