senior level and also specialists who will "readily determine an approach to the investigation of symptoms and signs" in their own fields. In addition the scientific background is to be covered in "sufficient depth." The book succeeds in offering wide coverage of this rapidly expanding field and contains a wealth of valuable references but specialists are unlikely to find enough depth in their own subjects.

The book opens with an authoritative chapter on epidemiology by authors from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and the WHO Collaborating Centre on AIDS in France. The chapters on pulmonary manifestations and gastro-intestinal disease are informative.

Neurologists will find the section on nervous system complications useful as an overview but the incidence of neurological syndromes is not given. The section on AIDS dementia complex is well written and takes most of the space. CMV encephalitis, cerebral toxoplasmosis, CNS lymphoma, progressive multifocal leucoencephalopathy, varicella-zoster and herpes simplex infections are all briefly covered. Vacuolar myelopathy is only quoted in a table and the neurological syndromes associated to seroconversion are not mentioned. Peripheral neuropathies are allocated one paragraph. The ophthalmological complications, in particular the florid retinopathies, are perfunctorily dealt with in a paragraph added by the editor at the end of this chapter. Some neuroradiology is included in a general chapter on radiological features.

The sections on virology (Jeffries) and immunology (Pinching) were clear and easy to read for this reviewer. The most useful part of the chapter on the spectrum of HIV infection is the appendix containing the classification system from the Center for Disease Control. Non-malignant cutaneous manifestations, Kaposi sarcoma and other AIDS related tumours and persistent generalised lymphadenopathy and immune thrombocytopenic purpura are also considered. A chapter on counselling for HIV infection and AIDS is included but seems unnecessary with the amount of information given in the rest of the book and would be better placed in the paramedical or lay literature. The lack of a chapter dealing with HIV infection and blood transfusion is, however, surprising.

This book is sensibly priced and should appeal to many doctors. Neurologists who will be seeing increasing numbers of patients with AIDS and wish to know more about the non-neurological aspects will find much useful information.

RJ GUILLOFF

Head Injury. 2nd ed. Edited by Paul R Cooper. (Pp 497; £75.00.) London: Williams & Wilkins, 1987.

The first edition of this multi-author text book on head injury appeared five years ago, riding a wave of optimism that the advances of computerised tomography and intracranial pressure monitoring had resulted in improved detection of intracranial haematoma and reduced mortality. In the subsequent five years, between the first and this second edition there has been time for a more sober appraisal of the impact of these and other influences, such as improved pre-hospital care and magnetic resonance imaging, upon head injuries and their outcome. Chapters on pathology of head injury and on minor head injury have been added for the second edition, while the other chapters have been re-written or revised. Although there are two British contributors this is essentially an account of practice and experience from the United States.

Partly as a result of the irregular sequence of the chapters on medical management and partly because of the differing styles of the authors of each chapter, the book reads more as a series of separate articles than as a purpose designed textbook. There are some surprising omissions. Despite emphasis in the preface on the importance of pre-hospital resuscitation, there is no mention in the text or references of several well-known papers referring to secondary brain insults, problems of pre-hospital transfer or the incidence of intra-abdominal haemorrhage in comatose head injured patients. In the chapter on radiographic evaluation, there is no mention of the CT signs of raised intracranial pressure. One figure (4.7) is clearly inverted and the abbreviation CECT is introduced without explanations; this presumably refers to contrast enhanced CT, which is seldom used in neurotraumatology practice in the UK.

A further inverted figure (5.8) mars an otherwise helpful chapter illustrating the pathology of head injury. The chapter on skull fracture covers the important issues in this presently contentious topic and is notable for containing the radiograph that everyone has heard about, but few have seen, showing an entire nasogastric tube coiled up intracranially. Maxillofacial trauma, such a common accompanying injury in patients with severe head trauma, is dealt with only in terms of its initial emergency management. The complex surgical and management problems of this injury are not dealt with. This would be a welcome addition to further editions.

The chapter on medical management of raised intracranial pressure touches on the controversial topics of steroid, mannitol and barbiturate therapy but fails to cite any of the essential recent references to these topics, papers by Muizelaar *et al*, Dearden *et al*, Schwartz *et al*, and Ward *et al*. Dimethylsulfoxide, lidocaine and ethacrynic acid derivatives are mentioned as treatment for raised intracranial pressure while gamma-hydroxybutyrate, etomidate, althesin and propofol are not.

Chapters on intracranial and cervical vascular injuries and on reconstruction of scalp and skull defects are useful reading for the neurosurgeon who may have to face these relatively unusual problems in head injured patients. The chapter title *Infectious complications of head injury* seems a misnomer. The final chapters on neuro-behavioural sequelae of head injury and on prognosis and outcome are valuable, each summarising a large amount of data. The person who reads this book will learn much about head injury, largely presented in a profusely illustrated and well tabulated format. This is not the last word on head injury, but it is the latest text book.

JD MILLER

New Concepts in Alzheimer's Disease (Pierre Fabre Monograph Series Vol 19) Edited by M Briley, A Kato, M Weber. (Pp 308; £40.00.) Basingstoke: MacMillan Press, 1986.

This book is based on a symposium held in October 1985 and sponsored by the Pierre Fabre Research Centre and is the first volume in a proposed monograph series. The editors set themselves the task of bringing together chapters describing work in disparate areas, some relating specifically to Alzheimer's disease, others discussing techniques which are felt applicable to the problem. There is indeed breadth of chapter ranging from molecular biology through immunology to PET scan imaging, although the emphasis is on the basic sciences and there is little clinical research especially neuropsychology. Moreover papers from unrelated disciplines may be useful when presented at the symposium but lose some of their relevance on publication in a large volume. Thus the chapter on dissociated monolayer cultures of human spinal cord strikes one as an unlikely candidate for inclusion in a book on Alzheimer's disease. The editors appear uncertain as to whether

this should be a book reviewing the area or chapters presenting new data. For example, there is an excellent review on the molecular biology approach to inherited disorders which is a very useful introduction to those of falter at the language of molecular biology and the relevance to Alzheimer's disease is immediately obvious despite the fact that it only occupies one paragraph. On the other hand there were chapters, for example that on soluble and membrane bound form of choline acetyltransferase, which presents data in the standard journal form. This inconsistency in approach detracts from some of the very good review chapters in the book. There are now many publications concerning Alzheimer's disease and the recent rapid advances render many of these publications obsolete. To lay claim to attention a book on Alzheimer's disease needs to be published rapidly or to provide a coherent overview. Although there are some excellent articles in this book the lack of coherence is a disadvantage.

MN ROSSOR

Therapy of Malignant Brain Tumours. Edited by K Jellinger. (Pp 503; DM 238.00.) Vienna: Springer-Verlag, 1987.

The results of the treatment of patients with malignant brain tumours remains depressingly poor. This is not to say, however, that no improvement has been made in recent years; both the quantity and quality of survival in these patients can be enhanced by appropriate and often multidisciplinary treatment. There is a need for all those involved in neuro-oncology to be well informed of modern developments throughout the specialty. This book, which has the declared aim of presenting the "state of the art of brain tumour therapy" goes some way to fulfilling this need.

The treatment sections begin with a brief, 30 page outline of neurosurgical techniques but these are not discussed in detail and the results of surgery alone are confined to just two pages.

Radiation treatment is dealt with in more detail. After an introduction to the basic physics and radiobiology in which there are errors (for example, dose does *not* define the amount of radiation emitted by a source) the chapter improves. There are sections covering general radiotherapeutic techniques and reviews of the treatment of individual tumour types follow. Each tumour section ends with recommendations for its manage-

ment and these would find agreement in many UK radiotherapy departments. Strangely, primary CNS lymphoma is entirely omitted whilst histologically non malignant tumours (pituitary adenoma, craniopharyngioma, meningioma) are included and are generally well treated.

The chapter on stereotactic biopsy and interstitial radiation is a very personal account by Dr F Mundinger of this technique which is still little used worldwide.

Although chemotherapy has a relatively minor role in the management of brain tumours its presentation here occupies 120 pages, four times the space allocated to surgery! Two authors provide a comprehensive introduction to the special problems of treating the CNS with cytotoxic drugs whilst a second pair of authors complete the section with a review of the results of chemotherapeutic treatment.

The book is completed with an introductory chapter on pathology and a final chapter on paediatric neuro-oncology which is perhaps the most successful in the whole volume.

My main criticisms of this book are its lack of balance and the lack of cohesion between its chapters. It reads like what it is, a collection of separate contributions written separately. There is little attempt to merge them into a unified approach to brain tumour therapy. I also find it strange that there is no chapter on the imaging of brain tumours, changes in which have contributed so much to their management in recent years. Neither is much made of the symptomatic management of the patient; this is indeed a book on the therapy of "tumours".

These reservations apart however, some of the chapters are very good. All are extremely well referenced—more than 2000 in all. They make good reading for the trainee in oncology or for those, already established, who want to learn more about the techniques of their colleagues. The book is nicely presented with good diagrams and plentiful clear illustrations throughout, though many spelling mistakes remain. It would make a worthwhile addition to the specialist library.

R RAMPLING

Evoked Potential Monitoring in the Operating Room. By Marc R Nuwer. (Pp 256; \$40.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1986.

The use of evoked potential (EP) techniques to monitor afferent CNS pathways during

surgery has increased greatly over the last decade. In certain situations, for example spinal surgery for the correction of kyphoscoliosis, monitoring of somatosensory evoked potentials is virtually mandatory for medicolegal reasons in the USA and there seems little reason to suppose that this will not happen in Britain too. The great expansion in the field in the USA has led to many personnel other than clinical neurophysiologists and trained EEG technicians working with EPs and it is to these groups, especially anaesthetists, surgeons and operating room nurses that this volume is directed.

The book is composed of a short, sensible introduction and six main chapters. The first of these briefly reviews basic electrophysiological aspects of evoked potentials before going on to a more detailed and very helpful review of recording equipment. This section deals with electrodes, amplifiers and filters including uses and abuses of the "notch" filter, followed by discussion of averaging techniques, an important and practical guide to artefact in the operating theatre and finally safety aspects. A long chapter on lower limb SEP techniques and spinal cord monitoring, by far the best-established EP monitoring technique, is followed by chapters on upper limb SEPs, auditory evoked potentials and visual evoked potentials during surgery. All of these chapters deal briefly with the well-known applications of EPs in clinical neurology (these tend to be termed "out-patient EPs" by the author) in addition to providing detailed information on stimulus and recording techniques, for example epidural versus interspinous ligament SEP recordings. Anaesthetic effects and changes due to other factors such as temperature, blood pressure and pupil diameter are all described as appropriate for the stimulus modality. The final chapter deals with some aspects of basic science including lesion studies and effects of ischaemia and mechanical cord injury, as well as transcortical motor stimulation.

It is of course notoriously difficult to prove or quantify the benefits to the patient from peroperative monitoring—a double blind trial is impossible and when as in scoliosis surgery, morbidity is low anyway, large numbers of patients would be necessary to prove advantages. A stable EP may reassure the surgeon but it might also encourage him to remove more of a cord tumour than he would otherwise, with possible benefits and risks from this. To some extent this book takes what might be termed a North American view in that it answers the question "how does one monitor" rather