Schiff and Glee. The sections were examined and the number of plaques, tangles and cells showing granulovacuolar degeneration (GVD) in the hippocampus was rated on a four point scale; none, some, moderate and many.

The results are shown in the table and show evidence indicating differences between the ratings for the left and right hippocampus. Chi-square tests show the differences between left and right to be highly significant for plaques, tangles and GVD ($p < 0.0004$ for all three measures). There was no consistent difference between counts on one side compared with the other.

Table

	% Agreement	% Disagreement
Plaques	65.45	34.55
Tangles	61.82	38.18
GVD	69.09	30.91

Our results derived from a larger sample of aged subjects but assessed with a less rigorous method of quantification are similar to the results reported by Wilcock and Esiri for Alzheimer cases. They emphasise the need for caution in making correlations between pathological and biochemical measurements obtained from the two hemispheres. The pathological and biochemical data in adjacent areas need to be established before adjacent sampling techniques are adopted for pathological and biochemical correlations in controls and demented of the Alzheimer type.

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Book reviews

Cranial and Spinal Magnetic Resonance Imaging: An Atlas and Guide. By David L Daniels and Victor M Houghton. (Pp 350; \$150.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1987.

The accurate interpretation of pathology in magnetic resonance imaging requires both an in depth knowledge of normal anatomy and also an appreciation of the appearance of normal and abnormal tissue on different sequences. So an atlas dealing with this subject should play an essential part in the background reading of everyone likely to come into contact with MR imaging.

Cranial and Spinal Magnetic Resonance Imaging: An Atlas and Guide sets out to fulfil this requirement. It is divided into 11 chapters. The first is devoted to a summary of the physical principles of MRI and assumes that the reader is already familiar with the subject. To those who are experienced the information provides a useful summary of the practical aspects of image interpretation. However, those commencing the subject will find the information rather too limited to be really useful. Chapter 2 deals with the appearance of most of the common pathological conditions providing guidelines to the interpretation of the MR images. Chapters 3 to 11 fulfil the essential purpose of the book. Each commences with a short description of the anatomy followed by selected cryomicrotome sections and the equivalent MR scan slices in the three orthogonal planes. Most chapters end with further examples of pathology. Chapters 4 and 5 deal with the deep cerebral structures and limbic system in particular detail and those who have been fortunate enough to hear Professor Naidich lecture on this subject will recognise his contribution in them. Chapters 6, 7 and 8 deal with the pituitary region, posterior fossa and petrous anatomy respectively and the last 3 chapters are devoted to the spine.

The imaging has been undertaken on a General Electric Signa system operating at 1.5 Tesla and as would be expected the anatomical detail is good. The reproduction and annotation of the scans and cryomicrotome slices, which are in colour, is excellent. Most images have been undertaken using T1 and T2 weighted spin echoes with a slice thickness of 3 or 5 mm but reference is also made to fast imaging with gradient echoes in the cervical spine.

As is to be expected with a multiauthor book there is some unnecessary repetition in the text but this has been kept to a minimum. The book is well produced and contains a wealth of detail. Nevertheless it is not cheap and at \$150 will not easily find its way into individual ownership. However, it should be available in libraries as a reference to all those, surgeons, physicians and radiologists alike, who have anything to do with the interpretation of MRI scans and anyone who is prepared to spend this sort of money will find it a very rewarding book.

DPE KINGSLEY

Intracranial Tumors in Infancy and Childhood: Basic Research Diagnosis and Treatment. (Progress in Experimental Tumor Research Vol 30.) Edited by N Kageyama, K Nagoya, K Takakura, F Epstein, H Hoffman, L Schut (Pp 378; £135.00.) Basel: Karger, 1987.

The International Publishers, Karger are skilled in the alchemy of turning symposia into books. Paediatric neurosurgeons already know this from *Concepts in Paediatric Neurosurgery* that records the annual meetings of the American Society for Paediatric Neurosurgeons. That series is already up to seven but this present volume is number 30 in Karger's series, *Progress in Experimental Tumor Research*. It is a record of the International Symposium on Paediatric Oncology (ISPN) that was held in Toba, Japan, in November 1985. Neurooncology in this context is confined to those tumours whose primary diagnosis and management is most likely to come within the province of the neurosurgeon. Those interested in neuroblastoma or the neurological complications of lymphoma and leukaemia (not to mention the problems of spinal cord compression from extra-dural malignant disease) will be disappointed.

The volume opens with some chapters on basic research in neurooncology before passing on to individual tumours and their management. Much of the material presented overlaps with that already published in the *Concepts of Paediatric Neurosurgery* series, but this is perhaps not surprising because the Toba conference contributors are derived almost exclusively from the United States and Japan. Again, it is not surprising that the Japanese provide most of the articles on the management of pineal tumours and details of their extensive experience is always interesting to read.

However, some of the other articles are nothing more than the expected (and unblushing) record of individual surgical skills much of which has already been published elsewhere. Some of the most interesting material, in fact, derives more from the laboratory and the operating room. Lucy Rorke from Philadelphia always writes an interesting article and here she provides one on the *Classification of Central Nervous System Tumours in Children* and another on the *Relationship of Morphology of Ependymoma in Children to their Prognosis*. Also of interest are articles on *Precocious Puberty of Cerebral origin* (a large cooperative study from Japan) and a chapter on the leptomeningeal dissemination of primary brain tumours in children.

All in all this volume is a useful and readable account of, particularly, the neurosurgical aspects of tumours of the central nervous system in childhood. It provides a simple if expensive access to information for those who have not been able to keep up with the current literature.

RICHARD HAYWARD

Pain and Mobility (*Advances in Pain Research and Therapy, Vol 10*). Edited by Sir John Eccles, M Tiengo, AC Cuello, D Ottoson. (Pp 260; \$79.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1987.

This is a perplexing book. Its subject is "Pain and Mobility" and the preface states that the volume explores physiological and psychological connections between pain and motor activity. The contributions were prepared by participants at an International Conference on Pain and Mobility held in Milan in March 1986 and reflect just that, each chapter being more or less self-contained, with little relationship one to another. Given the purpose of the meeting and the book, readers may be surprised to encounter chapters ranging from chemical aspects (for example endorphins and Substance P; the neuropeptides of the skin) to psychological aspects of pain but without much on mobility, and from mesolimbic pathways modulating nociception in rabbits to a conventional discussion on clinical aspects of cardiac pain. One wonders what cutaneous immunohistochemistry and the differential diagnosis of cardiac pain have to do with mobility?

Notwithstanding the heterogeneous nature of the book, there are some good chapters, for instance that dealing with neuropathies and plexopathies of malignant disease, and a first-class discussion on

mechanisms of exercise-induced muscle pain, which ends with the frank comment that "it is one area of research where personal observations and introspection play an important role alongside experimental studies".

The overall impression is that the authors have merely written about the subjects which interest them and upon which they have worked. This does not necessarily make for a good synthesis, which, other than being merely a record of conference proceedings, should be the aim of a book such as this, and I think this is where the book is unsuccessful. Unfortunately responsibility must fall to some extent upon the editors, who have had various roles. Thus whilst Sir John Eccles and Dr Ottoson have not contributed to any of the chapters themselves, Dr Tiengo has contributed to four chapters and Dr Cuello has written a very good opening chapter on peptide-containing sensory neurons. Surely four editors could have improved on philogosis of muscles, polysynaptic reflex arches, iterative lateral wrist skin stimulation, sensibilisation of nociceptors, and so on?

The customary high standard from Raven Press is maintained, but the publisher's comment on the cover that the book "explores the physiological and psychological connects between pain and motor activity" is, in my opinion, wishful thinking.

GD SCHOTT

The Origins of Modern Psychiatry. Edited by C Thompson. (Pp 279; £29.50.) Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 1987.

Current interest in the history of psychiatry coincides with a reappraisal of the boundaries of psychiatry, as well as mental health care and provision. In this context it is worth bearing in mind that mental health care is the oldest state supported social service. Not surprisingly therefore the history of psychiatry is attracting the interest of academic sociologists and historians, most of whom are influenced by the French writer Michel Foucault. The absence of a significant contribution from psychiatrists to the history of their discipline is glaringly obvious. *The Origins of Modern Psychiatry* can be seen as a partial attempt to redress the balance. The format of the book consists of a collection of essays written in the period 1856 to 1913 with accompanying commentaries by contemporary experts. The original contributions include those of Connolly, Gull, Hake Tuke, Maudsley, Bleuler and Kraepelin.

The editor in the introduction justifies an historical enquiry "as a method of retaining an appropriate perspective on the current status of the subject and proposed developments". Unfortunately the book rarely measures up to these aims. A concluding chapter by the editor might have helped to draw together the diverse ideas of the original contributors and amplify their current relevance. The commentaries, with few exceptions, are largely uncritical and all too often consist in the predictable "sainting" of ancient luminaries. Many of the original contributions clearly demonstrate how the science of an era is very often rooted in prevailing culture and prejudices. This is no better illustrated than in the essay of Langdon Down, "The Observations on an Ethnic Classification of Idiots", wherein he attempts to construct a causal classification of mental deficiency based upon the best biological theory of the age, namely racial degeneration. No lessons are drawn from this well meaning though misguided essay, the assumption being that science in the late twentieth century is free of all ideological influence. Perhaps what this book illustrates best of all is the limitations to a history of a discipline written by its own practitioners.

RJ DOLAN

Aneurysms Affecting the Nervous System. By Bryce Weir. (Pp 671; £113.00.) London: Williams & Wilkins, 1987.

This is the third book about aneurysms or subarachnoid haemorrhage to be published by a neurosurgeon within the past year. Like the others, Dr Weir's has been very thoroughly researched, and is based on considerable personal experience, extending in this case beyond the clinic and into the experimental laboratory. The emphasis of the book is certainly clinical, but all areas are covered: chapters are included on epidemiology, genetics and associated systemic diseases, on ophthalmology, on physiology and pharmacology of aneurysm rupture, on anatomy, and on vasospasm, on physiology and pharmacology of aneurysm rupture, on anatomy, and on vasospasm. The chapter on physiology is particularly good, and can stand on its own as a useful review of intracranial pressure, cerebral blood flow and metabolism, and the pathophysiology and biochemistry of cerebral ischaemia: workers in the experimental field will notice some very minor errors in the description of techniques. Perhaps most valuable is the discussion of the relationship between delayed