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

ischaemic deficit and vasospasm, and the reasons for its variability.

In several chapters detailed summaries of much of the relevant literature are given, and in fact comprise the bulk of the text. This has resulted in very large sections on some topics, and it would have been preferable to have organised the material under more detailed sub-headings. For example, sixteen columns of text on paediatric patients or twenty on timing of surgery and outcome, without a single sub-heading, makes much of the material inaccessible and detracts from its potential value as a source of advice and references. Although a collection of extensive literature reviews can be useful (and these are very comprehensive) it does not always make for stimulating reading. This format also results in considerable repetition, as for example in the descriptions of similar treatments of vasospasm in several papers in the literature. More importantly, the author sometimes fails to give his own views the prominence they deserve; they are often confined to a single sentence at the conclusion of an extensive literature summary. For this reason, and because of the comprehensive scale of the book, a reader seeking answers to specific questions will need to be prepared to set aside a fair amount of time.

The illustrations are all informative and of high quality; those in the chapter on anatomy are especially good. This book will be a valuable acquisition for a departmental library, and it should be considered for individual purchase for the sake of the chapters on anatomy, physiology and vasospasm. Extensive description of original papers in books such as this will become less necessary in the future as local access to computerised reference databases become easier and cheaper.

AJ STRONG

Headache (Practical Clinical Medicine Series). Edited by T Fowler. (Pp 230; £25.00.) Lancaster: MTP Press, 1987.

Granted a little literary license, the neurologist might paraphrase Osler by saying: know headache and you know neurology. Certainly an understanding of the diverse diseases of the cranium and its contents which cause headache guarantees a sound knowledge of much of medical and surgical neurology. This handy paperback is not a specialist's manual concerned with the latest theories of migraine and other headaches, nor does it embrace their pharmacology or

treatment in any detail; rather it is a manual, principally concerned with diagnosis of headache patients, dealing with acute meningeal crises, recurring and chronic headaches, their causes and management. It is deliberately a practical guide aimed at the General Practitioner and the Physician in a district general hospital.

It is edited by Tim Fowler who has sought the able assistance of BGR Neville on headache in children, MM Sharr on various neurosurgical topics and AS Sandhu on the radiological investigation. In 223 pages and nine chapters they summarise the practical aspects of a difficult and complex topic with admirable clarity and a fund of good clinical sense.

There are some helpful line diagrams and tables and a series of boxes containing summaries of important practical points and aides memoirs highlighted by the black blobs reminiscent of some better post-graduate educational journals. The neurologist will find points of difference of opinion and emphasis. He or she will not necessarily agree that acyclovir reduces the incidence of post herpetic neuralgia, that cluster headache is a variant of migraine, and may feel that the value of CT in the diagnosis of subarachnoid haemorrhage is overestimated. The general medical and neurological Senior House Officer and Registrar will find this a useful and sound book to have in the ward, especially when dealing with emergencies. And the GP's skills and pattern of referral will be greatly facilitated if he puts into effect the principles laid down here.

This is a welcome addition to the growing literature on headache and I warmly recommend it to the non-specialist.

JMS PEARCE

Diagnosis and Classification in Psychiatry. A Critical Appraisal of DSM III. Edited by GL Tischler. (Pp 546; £40.00.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987.

The American system of classification of mental illness (DSM III) is by now widely accepted by clinicians and is an indispensable part of the research armamentarium. A revision of the DSM III, the DSM IIIR, has already been published and a new edition, the DSM IV, is due out in 1992. It seems likely that until then many man-hours will be spent in validating and refining the diagnostic criteria.

This book originated from a three day conference sponsored by the Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association and it is the departure point towards the preparation of the DSM IV. The diagnostic categories included in the DSM III are examined in turn, paying special attention to their reliability, validity and problems encountered in defining the boundaries of the various disorders. A number of specific suggestions are made to modify some of these categories. Personality disorders bear the brunt of the criticism, but other diagnostic categories such as those covering the diseases of childhood and adolescence are also likely to be modified in future editions. Affective illness and schizophrenia appear to have stood the test of time better, while the category of organic mental disorders is likely to incorporate some focal syndromes in future and to have stricter guidelines to increase the reliability of the clinical diagnosis.

At first sight a book devoted to discussing the classification of mental illness is unlikely to appeal to a wide readership and I must confess that was my feeling when confronted with the title. However, having read it I feel obliged to change this premature view, and has given me many hours of enjoyable and profitable reading. What made the book for me were the scholarly and succinct reviews of many important topics written by leading American experts and often spanning biological, epidemiological and psychological aspects. By the end of the book I felt I had been taken for a grand tour of current psychiatric research and conceptual thinking in psychiatry, and I had nearly forgotten that the book was about the more arid topic of classification. Even when to forget that was impossible, as in the chapters dealing with the virtues of multiaxial and hierarchical approaches to classification, my interest was constantly engaged. I have no hesitation in recommending this book to those looking for a panoramic, yet detailed, view of psychiatric research as well as to those with a special interest in classification.

MARIA A RON

Clinical Neuroendocrinology 2 ed. By Joseph B Martin and Seymour Riechlin. (Pp 759; \$90.00.) Philadelphia: FA Davis. UK Distrib: Quest Meridian, 1987.

The authors have clearly invested enormous energy and enthusiasm in this book. They have provided a fully referenced text