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

covering all aspects of clinical neuroendocrinology from basic neuroanatomy through neuropharmacology and the physiological and pathological regulation of pituitary hormone secretion, to psychoneuroendocrinology and immunoneuroendocrinology. They have achieved this with clarity, uniformity of style, good cross-referencing and illustrations which clearly emphasise endocrine dynamics.

This book maintains its interest to the reader by providing historical perspective and up to date research data. I like the way the more technical data are provided in small print which can be read if more detail is required, or left out without severe interruption of the text.

No two-author book of this size can be fully up-to-date in all areas and there are several places where the information is contradictory or misleading, and interspecies differences glossed over. An example would be the dogmatic suggestion that noradrenergic input to vasopressin neurons is inhibitory, in one part of the text, whilst in another they describe the stimulation of vasopressin release following stimulation of noradrenergic afferents. There is also an excessive number of typographical errors (for example tobacco smoking results in nicotinic acid receptor stimulation!) My criticisms however are only minor and I should certainly commend this book to any department with an interest in clinical neuroendocrinology.

S LIGHTMAN

Molecular Neurobiology in Neurology and Psychiatry (*Research Publications: Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, Vol 65*). Edited by Eric R Kandel. (Pp 221; \$45.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1987.

The title of this volume is rather misleading, as is that of its preface, *Molecular Neurobiology and the Proper Study of Humankind* (sic). It is a collection of articles, based on a symposium, divided into three main sections: ion channels of nervous cells; regulation of transmitter release; and development and aging of the nervous system.

The first section includes contributions from Waxman (ion channels in myelinated nerve fibres), Rasminsky (spontaneous activity in pathological nerve fibres), Stroud (the acetylcholine receptor), and Drachman (myasthenia gravis). The second and third

sections are rather heterogeneous, including chapters on Huntington's disease, axonal transport in the squid giant axon, calcium dependent vesicle exocytosis, synaptogenesis, cell adhesion molecules, the cholinergic hypothesis in Alzheimer's disease, Lesch-Nyhan syndrome, and a fascinating account of the neurobiology of short and long term memory by Kandel and colleagues.

Although the majority of the chapters in this book are good reviews, they do not add up to a very cohesive volume, and there is little here that has not been published elsewhere, as is nearly always the case with symposium proceedings. Despite the claims of the cover blurb writer, this volume does not really bring "the exciting discoveries of molecular neurobiology to bear on the clinical practice of neurology and psychiatry". I doubt that the book will find a wide clinical audience, although those wanting a neurobiological (in the broadest sense) refresher course will find it a useful pot-pourri.

AE HARDING

Motor Neurone Disease. Edited by GM Cochrane. Foreword by Sir John Walton. (Pp 104; £4.97.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987.

This easily readable, short, book was commissioned by the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Great Britain and is aimed at family doctors and primary carers.

The work opens with a lucid chapter by R Greenhall describing the essentials of the disease. There is a useful account of the problems in communication and swallowing and the aids available by P Enderby and R Langton-Hewer. G M Cochrane excels in describing in detail the management of MND in the early and later stages.

The book is packed with useful information and practical and compassionate advice. Diets, management of bulbar symptoms and spasticity, terminal care, home gadgets, orthotics, home lifts, wheelchairs, social benefits, voluntary organisations available, and mobility aids are just some examples. In most cases specific models are quoted or, when appropriate, documentary reference is given. It will thus help professionals not involved routinely with these cases.

A few minor points should be considered in future editions. Except for the clear clinical photographs and the excellent section of

talking to the patient and family the contents of chapter 2 (*Diagnosis and Prognosis*) had already been covered by Chapter 1. Eosinophilic cytoplasmic inclusion bodies (Bunina) in anterior horn cells are one of the pathological features of MND (page 3). In table 1.2 (page 4) the incidence of MND per 2500 per year is 0.0375 (not 0.375) and the prevalence 0.125 (not 1.125).

The book should prove invaluable to family doctors, health visitors, social workers, nurses, dietitians, physiotherapists and occupational therapists who look after patients with MND. It also deserves a place in the neurologist's personal library. The Motor Neurone Disease Association is to be congratulated for commissioning a book that brings together much needed but dispersed information and Dr Cochrane and coauthors for implementing this initiative so well.

RJ GUILLOFF

Clinical Electromyography 4th ed. By JAR Lenman and AE Ritchie. Foreword by J Simpson. (Pp 218; £30.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987.

This book is now in its fourth edition over some seventeen years. The format has remained much the same over this time; the aim of the authors, to give a comprehensive but not encyclopaedic outline of current wisdom and new methodology, has been sustained in this volume. The subject matter is confined to peripheral nerve and muscle electrophysiology. New techniques and their rationales, introduced since the last edition, are described. These descriptions are relatively uncritical and the reader is left to draw his own conclusions as to their relevance and application in the clinical electrophysiological setting. The early chapters deal with the electrophysiology of the normal subject and the scope and nature of electrical abnormalities that routine EMG can demonstrate in pathological states of nerve and muscle. The properties, usefulness and limitations of different electrode configurations are discussed. The chapter on quantitative methods in EMG is a pleasing summary of available techniques both old and new. There are useful short chapters on the electrical study of reflexes, intensity duration curves, accommodation measurements and intracellular recording. The chapter on nerve conduction velocity methods, with details of normal values and pitfalls in measurement is comprehensive.