and for all paediatric neurologists, by whom it should be bought for personal use. I believe it will be the standard text in paediatric neurosurgery for many years to come.

JOHN GARFIELD

Interdisciplinary Topics in Gerontology Vol. 26: Innovative Trends in Psychogeriatrics. Series Editor: H P von Hahn (Basel). Editors: J WERTHEIMER, P BAUMANN, M GAILLARD, P SCHWED. (Pp 119; £52.30.) Basel: Karger, 1989.

There is just one reason which validates the publication of this book, namely a farsighted discussion of the architecture of institutions for demented persons by Michael Manser. He advises: A clear, preferably symmetrical layout avoiding narrow corridors, high levels of natural lighting with large low windows overlooking a busy scene, privacy and thus dignity for each patient with a specific place entirely their own, easy access to a sheltered and secure outdoor place, and a safe circular outside path which if followed will bring the patient back to the point where he started.

Chapters on the definition of dementia, epidemiology, functional imaging and presentation of food in nursing homes were of interest but not innovative. Otherwise there is nothing to recommend the book which is the product of a meeting of an international travelling club in psychogeriatrics in Switzerland. It is expensive, hyped and lacks substance. The chapters on teaching psychogeriatrics degenerate into name dropping. Not one of the four editors has taken a blue pencil to limit the tangential verbiages that obscure the text and two potentially useful chapters on sexual problems and drug treatment in old age are ruined by erroneous translation.

E M R CRITCHLEY

Electrodiagnosis in Diseases of Nerve and Muscle: Principles and Practice. 2nd Edition. By JUN KIMURA. (Pp 709; £62.34. Quest-Meriden Ltd. F A Davis. 1989.

Six years ago, Dr Kimura produced the first edition of his monograph on Nerve and Muscle Electrodiagnosis. This book has become a standard text on the subject and has had several reprintings.

In the intervening years, there have been a number of developments in the field, some of which have been incorporated in this better

printed new edition. The additions have been concerned mainly with single fibre and macroelectromyography, polyneuropathies, myopathies and disorders of neuromuscular transmission and somato-sensory responses. The recent advances in cortical stimulation with electrical or magnetic stimulators have also been reviewed. There is also a useful section in the appendix with illustrations of wave forms. There has been a slight expansion of the section on recordings from urinary and anal sphincters, however the recent developments in this field are not mentioned. The EMG features of motor neuron disease should be expanded as well as a discussion of the changes during the course of the disease.

The book is slightly smaller than its predecessor due to the use of thinner paper, although containing thirty seven additional pages. There is an adequate index and an increased number of references which follow each chapter. Dr Kimura has succeeded in providing the clinician with a useful update of his book. There is an increasing trend for texts to be multi-authored, with varying emphasis and style. The singular endeavour of Dr Kimura should be applauded and the book is highly recommended.

M S SCHWARTZ

Anticonvulsant Therapy: Pharmacological Basis and Practice. 3rd Edition by MJ Eadie and JH Tyrer. (Pp 384; £45.00.) Churchill Livingstone, 1989.

There are now several monographs available which aim to guide and instruct neurological trainees, neurologists and the many other physicians who undertake the difficult task of treating epilepsy. They vary in their line of approach and in quality. Those which lean heavily on EEG laboratories and the splendid modern sophistications of displaying electrographic data are sometimes guilty of letting their laboratory slips show a little. A few years ago, a paper from such a source in a respected review journal dogmatically asserted that the only merits of phenobarbitone were its cheapness and its suitability for third world countries; it went on to say that phenytoin was contraindicated in women of childbearing age. The modern epileptologist is far beyond this sort of ill-informed cant, but the many non-specialists who deal with patients and their fits need a sound grounding and clear advice as to when and when not to investigate and to treat, which drug(s) to use, when to monitor, when to discontinue treatment, and, how to deal with epilepsy in the special circumstances of the neonate, the

elderly and in pregnancy. Most existing texts fall short in some of these issues. Not surprisingly, since these are problems which not infrequently cause dissent even amongst the cognoscenti.

Mervyn Eadie and John Tyrer from Brisbane, Queensland published their first edition in 1973 and the second in 1980. In my opinion this is far and away the best book available on the subject. This third edition is welcomed as an up to date text in its own right, incorporating all the salient advances of the last decade in clinical pharmacology and in our understanding of the neglected but important natural history of epilepsy. Like earlier editions it is in three sections—the principles which underlie the treatment and basic concepts of pharmacology, the pharmacology of individual anticonvulsants, and the use of anticonvulsants in practice. It is well printed in two columns per page, illustrated with clear line diagrams, graphs and tables; it abounds with key references on all major issues, and above all is plainly and clearly written. If you need to know about the distribution of a drug in CSF, saliva, tears and tissues, its protein binding, clearance and elimination the data is here for you. If the toxicity, interactions and effects on the foetus and neonate are poignant issues, the answer, if known, will be easily found. The third section deals with the problems clinicians seen in the clinics and wards, covering classification and discussing the rational drug choices in all the seizure types including those of childhood.

This is an excellent book, clearly thought out and well presented. My copy is destined for the ward office where it will, I predict, be worn out by constant use in no time at all.

JMS PEARCE

Interferon Treatment of Neurologic Disorders. Edited by R A SMITH. (Pp 368; \$107.75.) New York: Marcel Dekker, 1989.

The potential importance of interferons in neurology, traditionally regarded as therapeutically poorly equipped, lies in their antiviral and antiproliferative effects; besides, the name is catchy. Discovered in the 1950's but out in the cold until mass production began in the 1980's by recombinant DNA technology, interferon production and treatment have now been assessed in most problem areas of neurology. This collection of review articles represents the first systematic account of their use in neurological disease.

It is useful in that it provides a comprehensive background to the three main types of