Book reviews

section presumes and indeed needs prior familiarity with the subject.

In the clinical, the psychiatric and the psychophysiological sections we get a treat of a very wide range of topics. From the obvious, for instance the use of mapping in epilepsy, the various dementias and psychoses, coma and in MS; through the less expected, for example, Addison's disease, dyslexia, right up to the exotic: a description of a movie featuring the brain during an all-night sleep complete, three dreams included. Several papers deal with imaging before and after therapy, including pharmacological and electrical, a domain where predictably brain mapping may prove to be particularly useful. Several, perhaps too many papers are based on recordings on around ten patients or less, down to one.

Inevitable in an anthology, the language and style are uneven. Expressions not in common usage, for example "anteriorization," are freely used without prior definition. There are too many heavy, long sentences so at times one gets an urge to take antacids for easier digestibility. Seemingly the proof reading had to be done in a great hurry so several "meningeomata" and the like were overlooked. Our very own Pampiglione in the text became Pampiglione a few pages later in the reference. *Tertium non datur*, he never had a chance to recover his true identity. The abundant illustrations of coloured maps are beautiful.

All electrophysiologists, clinical or research will have an interest in the book. This volume is excellent in reminding the reader that brain mapping is essentially a very effective new form of display with no new information involved; that the wealth of experience rests on the raw EEG data, which should not be neglected; that it becomes increasingly difficult to keep in mind the patient, the clinical and the physiological problems and to avoid the entanglement with problems caused by the computers; that it is hoped cartography may enhance our understanding of how the brain functions. We are reminded that brain mapping is not here to diagnose but to provide important pieces of information useful in establishing a diagnosis; that it is valuable in group comparison studies and of no practical value in the diagnosis of individual cases.

To conclude, I shall finish by quoting Duffy's closing remarks: 'It is an exciting time. The field is at its beginning and it is not yet time to summarise.'

M ELIAN

Pathology of tumours of the nervous system — Fifth Edition. By DOROTHY S RUSSELL and LUCIEN J RUBINSTEIN. (Pp 1012 Illustrated. Price: £110.00.) London: Edward Arnold, 1989.

The fifth edition of this textbook in 1989 recalls the memorable appearance in 1959 of the first edition, which set a new standard for a monograph on a group of tumours. Dorothy Russell was a remarkable medical scientist, and the 1959 textbook, written together with her distinguished pupil Lucien Rubenstein, was her masterpiece, and will always remain a classic text in neuropathology. Subsequent editions in the intervening thirty years have amply maintained the preeminence of this textbook over all other competitors.

This fifth edition, now comprising over 1000 pages, is a massive compendium of data, descriptions, illustrations, and references, dealing with all aspects of tumours of the nervous system. It is not only a descriptive text essential for the diagnosis of tumours, but also an extensive database for research in neuro-oncology. Modern techniques, such as electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry, and cell, tissue, and organ culture are dealt with in detail, but, also there is much information and discussion, on theories of neural tumour formation.

This fifth edition is almost entirely the work of the second author who generously insists on mentioning the help of Dorothy Russell, who died in 1983. The book is handsomely produced and is excellent value for money. It will naturally be purchased by any neuropathologist who deals with neural tumours, but most histopathologists and neurosurgeons would find its acquisition an investment.

JT HUGHES

Mechanisms of drug action on the nervous system. 2nd Edition By RW RYALL. (Pp 232; £27.50 H/b.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.

One of the pleasures of reviewing books is the exposure to volumes which would otherwise escape attention. Probably few neurologists would set out to read this slim and concise text and would thus miss a useful review of a subject which is central to our practice.

The book devotes two chapters to a brief introduction and description of neuropharmacological techniques before describing in detail the pharmacology of the neuromuscular junction, autonomic nerves and then

the central nervous system. The bulk of the book is concerned with the latter which is where most recent developments have occurred and also where the apparent profusion of neurotransmitters and receptors is most confusing for the non-specialist. Several chapters have little immediate relevance for the neurologist and some important areas receive scant attention. Thus anaesthesia, analgesia, schizophrenia and depression are well covered; Alzheimers disease, Huntington's chorea and extra-pyramidal disorders rather less so.

I found the book useful both to revise my existing knowledge of neuropharmacology and to extend it. As a non-pharmacologist the pure neuropharmacology sections were clear with appropriate use of diagrams and sensible discussion of the many areas of controversy. The non-clinical background of the author is obvious when he turns his attention to pathological states which are in general very poorly covered. Thus the description of the clinical features of epilepsy is sketchy and at times misleading. The same could be said about the coverage of spasticity and Alzheimer's disease. The experienced clinician can make allowance for this but since the book is primarily intended for undergraduates in pre-clinical studies and the biological sciences, future editions might seek to redress this imbalance.

One of the problems facing the author of introductory texts lies in achieving a balance between excessive simplification and undue complication and in this book the author has succeeded reasonably well. Overall I can recommend it as a good general introduction to a difficult and steadily changing subject. Its value would be enhanced by collaboration with a clinician and an expansion of the section devoted to defined diseases of the brain.

RA METCALFE

Reshaping the Psychoanalytic Domain. By JUDITH M HUGHES. (Pp 244; \$30.00.) University of California Press, 1989.

There have been many books written recently looking at Psychoanalysis and its Practitioners in great depth; as an American Professor of History Judith Hughes provides an outsiders view of the British School of Psychoanalysis in more ways than one. Her book is certainly one of the better ones. I recommend her book to those who are already interested and involved in the psychoanalytic field of work, but more particularly to those who remain sceptical and at