and megavitamin therapy, and a riveting chapter on legal considerations. The scurrilous work of Dr. Peter Begin, the outcome of the malpractice action taken against Mark and Ervin, and the fatal consequences for patients when their psychiatrists' recommendations for treatment are interfered with by the meddling men from the Mental Health Commission (the lunatic commissioners), are all to be found here.

This is a nicely produced book, the cost of which may well be prohibitive to a number of people who would benefit by its possession. The publishers should be encouraged to produce a less expensive paperback edition for students.

MICHAEL R TRIMBLE

Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome 2nd edition. By Arthur K Shapiro, Elaine S Shapiro, J Gerald Young, Todd E Feinberg. (Pp 584; \$87.50.) New York: Raven Press 1987.

The first edition of this book published ten years ago brought together the scanty available literature on tics and Gilles de la Tourette syndrome and reviewed the authors' own extensive experience. Phenomenology was exhaustively described and the bibliography was so thorough that together with Meige and Feindel's classical monograph published almost a century before, it came to serve as a second essential handbook for those fascinated by this remarkable malady. At the time of the Shapiros' travails, Gilles de la Tourette syndrome was considered to be a rare psychiatric disorder usually explained in psychological or even psychoanalytical terms. They were persuaded to the contrary however, and provided circumstantial evidence to suggest that the disorder would be better considered a structural nervous disease. Their views have not altered in this much larger, updated edition which includes personal studies on 666 patients with Gilles de la Tourette syndrome.

Whereas the Shapiros were virtually alone in researching this disorder in the 1960s, their dedicated endeavours have now spawned a younger generation of investigators. As befits a sphinx-like disorder without pathology it is hardly surprising that their polarised views have come under considerable attack from their American colleagues; I too found much to disagree with in this new edition. The argument that obsessional compulsive disorder is not linked to Gilles de la Tourette syndrome is unconvincing and con-

trary to my experience; the merits of drug therapy are overstated. They have also invented a new complex terminology which is confusing and unhelpful. They draw distinctions between impulsions and compulsions, and now embrace the terms "coprolalia" and "compromimia" (copropraxia) under the blanket rubric of coprophilia which literally translated means a love of faeces! The DSM-III is wrong in insisting on a childhood onset for Gilles de la Tourette syndrome; I have seen classical cases for which no secondary cause is apparent present as late as 35 years.

The book is written in a turgid and constipated style. Many of the chapters could be condensed without detriment. Almost every study in the literature is discussed ad nauseam irrespective of its importance and one therefore loses touch with the few tangible facts within a myriad of negative or in substantial data. The book does contain valuable information, but although it attempts to pay democratic lip service to the work of others, it will serve primarily as a monument to the Shapiros' enormous contribution to research in this area. The bibliography must contain every paper ever published on Gilles de la Tourette syndrome up to the mid-1980s.

AJ LEES

1988 Yearbook of Psychiatry and Applied Mental Health. Edited by D X Freedman, R S Lourie, H Y Maltzer, J A Talbott, H Weiner. (Pp 499; £34.00.) London: Wolfe Medical, 1988.

This American yearbook summarises 451 articles published in the world literature during 1986 and 1987. The summaries are clearly written and in some cases an editorial comment highlighting the relevance of the work is appended. The choice of material is at times idiosyncratic, as exemplified by some of the titles, such as "High-functioning multiple personality patients: three cases". I would like to think that this is also the explanation for the inclusion of only thirty-six British contributions.

The main advances in the fields of genetics, biological psychiatry and psychopharmacology are well covered and the book is an efficient way to spot important articles the reader might have overlooked. Other sections such as psychotherapy, law and psychiatry, and psychiatric nursing will be less interesting for the home grown reader unless he or she is keen on the "transcultural"

aspects of psychiatric thinking. A more stringent choice of material excluding review articles and resulting in a slimmer, cheaper volume would have been much more preferable.

The ephemeral life of a yearbook makes it suitable for the reference shelves of a library to be used by many over a short period, perhaps less so as a purchase for the individual reader.

MARIA ROBERTS

1988 Yearbook of Neurology and Neurosurgery. Edited by R N De Jong, R D Currier, M Crowell. (Pp 465; £35.50.) London: Wolfe Medical, 1988.

The Yearbook has been published in an unbroken sequence since 1902 and now has a well established format. The three editors, two neurologists and one neurosurgeon, select abstracted articles from nearly a hundred different journals and within the main divisions of neurology and neurosurgery group the material into familiar text book chapters. The literature is reviewed up until April 1987 and inevitably some sections, most obviously those dealing with the acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome and the transplant controversy in Parkinson's Disease, appear rather dated. The characteristic and often most interesting feature of the Yearbook is the short editorial comment which follows each of the selected articles. On these and on the range of papers selected by the editors depends the success of the book.

The neurosurgical section this year seems to work better than the neurological one. The selection of surgical material is evenly spread across the discipline and the editorial comments by Professor Crowell are informatively critical and often add considerably to the interest of the article. The neurological choice is more uneven, perhaps inevitably with two medical editors. Parkinson's disease is covered rather thinly, muscle disease only rates one article and the section on neuro-ophthalmology is strangely eclectic with the most interesting article appearing in the miscellaneous section. The editorial comments are also disappointing often only restating the conclusion of the article rather than expanding it. However, at a reasonable price, the book offers an interesting series of annotated snapshots of a year's neurology and neurosurgery without too many blurred frames.

RE CLIFFORD-JONES