A Colour Atlas of Clinical Neurology. By Malcolm Parsons. (Pp 216; $19.50.) London: Wolfe Medical, 1988.

This work contains 603 pictures with five tables; 230 of the figures are photographs, usually in colour, of clinical signs and include 39 pathological or operative specimens. The contents include a mixture of pathology, such as cerebral tumours, vascular diseases, infections, developmental disorders, and symptoms, for example, blackouts, and paraplegia. There are also sections on cranial nerves, higher functions of the brain and peripheral lesions. These have some features about examination. Short sections are provided with explanatory text emphasising common occurrences and also pointing out various pitfalls with examples of misdiagnosis. Obviously with a pictorial text some signs are much more easily portrayed and others, like movement disorders, fare less well.

The author's aim is to expand the neurological signs which patients may show and try to indicate the path that should be logically followed in their investigation. To that end there are 263 pictures of radiological investigations. These include many plain radiographs, isotope and computed tomographic brain scans with some films of myelograms, angiograms, ventriculograms and even air studies. It is disappointing that there are no pictures of magnetic resonance imaging but the text was first published in 1983. Traces from eight electro-encephalograms, three electrocardiograms, two electromyograms and one visual evoked potential are included as well as two tables of cerebrospinal fluid findings and one picture of cerebrospinal fluid to indicate the use of these important investigations.

Over 100 line drawings, some showing simplified anatomical pathways, and others of useful myotome and dermatome innervation, or reflex levels, supplement the text. These are of great help to the reader emphasising the important role of a basic understanding of clinical anatomy in neurological practice. The succinct comments in the text stress the author's views on what is important in causation, diagnosis and management. The reader will follow this advice with benefit.

This work is a useful adjunct which may support the student or junior doctor's neurological textbooks but will need to be supplemented by further reading. For the number of pictures it is reasonably priced.

Dr Parsons has also published *Diagnostic Picture Tests in Clinical Neurology* and is to be complimented on his promotion of pictorial aids to neurological teaching.

T FOWLER

Treatment of Glioma. Edited by J Suzuki. (Pp 225; DM 148.00.) Berlin: Springer, 1988.

This is a collection of chapters by 16 writers from the Tohoka University School of Medicine, Sendai, the Akita University Hospital and the Medical College of Ohita, Japan. The title is misleading because the book contains a study of the epidemiology of gliomas, the effects of different treatment modalities on glioma cell cultures and animal brain tumour models, as well as their analysis of treatment of human gliomas.

The epidemiological study is well presented in the form of tables and a clear text. It is based on 662 glioma cases presenting in the Tohoku district between 1980 and 1984, but only 70% of these cases were verified neuropathologically using the WHO classification. The next chapter is a literature review on the therapeutic results in glioblastoma which is referenced up to 1983 and concludes that the results are disappointing. This chapter seems unnecessary since the information and conclusions will probably be known to most workers likely to be interested in reading this book.

The next section gives a detailed account of the experimental method and results of the effects of radiation and cytotoxic drugs on monolayer and spheroid cell culture of gliomas and a brain tumour model. The experimental designs try to simulate the biological consequences of tumour cells receiving poor nutrition and oxygen supply by using different sized glioma spheroids and a hypoxic tumour preparation. Whilst the results are as one would expect from the general oncological literature, the experimental designs are elegant and the implications for the treatment of human brain tumours is discussed. Most of these results have been published in the Japanese literature, so the data may be new to English-speaking workers. It is a section that the clinician may wish to browse through before turning to the final section on clinical studies.

The authors preface this section by declaring that their experimental studies formed the basis of their clinical studies, which is a laudable principle, but in practice we all know it turns out differently. The authors describe RAFP therapy for their patients. This means a combination of external beam radiotherapy, ACNU (a nitrosurea) as a radio sensitiser and cytotoxic drug which is claimed to be enhanced by masked 5FU called FT-207 and finally PSK, a polysaccharide, which is claimed strengthens the immunological mechanisms responsible for killing brain tumour cells.

Each chapter in the clinical section is dedicated to a rudimentary statistical analysis of a specific glioma type together with a review of the literature. Most patients receive surgery but less than 50% of any specific glioma group receive RAFP compared with a single adjuvant therapy. RAFP is shown to produce significant benefit in cases of anaplastic astrocytoma and medulloblastoma compared with single modality adjuvant treatment. Whether radiotherapy is beneficial for patients with oligodendrogliomas is controversial; whilst accepting this point, the authors fail to address their analysis to this problem. However, a final chapter on measuring the effect of RAFP therapy by MR imaging is interesting but not conclusive. The book will be of interest to the specialist neurosurgeon mainly for ideas on design of experiment and clinical protocols, and to the general neurosurgeon for the literature reviews in the clinical section, rather than the actual clinical results themselves, which are well documented elsewhere.

JOHN WILDEN

Notices

World Federations of Societies of Biological Psychiatry. *Regional Psychiatric Symposium.* This will be held 10–11 October 1989 in Budapest, Hungary. Details may be obtained from: Congress Bureaux Motesz, Budapest, POB 32, H-1361, Hungary.

The First International Congress of Movement Disorders. Sponsored jointly by the International Medical Society of Motor Disturbances and the Movement Disorders Society, this will be held 25–27 April, 1990 in Washington DC, USA. Information may be obtained from Mark Hallett, MD, NINDS, NIH Building 10, Room 5N226, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, USA.

Correction

Autoimmune optic neuropathy: evaluation and treatment. Kupersmith MJ, *et al, J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1988;**51**: 1381–6.

In Table 1, the heading of column 7 should be Anti-RANA, not Anti-RNA.