"decerebrate postures do not invalidate a diagnosis of brain death". On the contrary, such postures imply that the brainstem is still very much alive.

These blemishes corrected the book deserves to become part of the way neurology should be approached, both by medical students and by those envisaging higher qualifications. Further editions seem certain.

C PALLIS

Lesion Analysis in Neuropsychology. By HANNA DAMASIO AND ANTONIO R DAMASIO. (Pp 227; £34.00.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990.

The traditional problems facing lesion analysis in neuropsychology have been the simplistic level of psychological analysis, the relative crudity and non-reproducibility of lesions and the naivety of theoretical models of explanation which have sacrificed psychological in favour of anatomical descriptions. This volume is written and illustrated by the Damasios, noted for their respective expertise in neuropsychology and neuro-imaging and represents an attempt to overcome the methodological difficulties of focal lesion analysis.

A comprehensive neuropsychological assessment is described and illustrated by cases of great interest; the methods by which accurate lesion siting on computerised tomography and nuclear magnetic resonance imaging can be achieved without undue artefact are exemplified in beautifully reproduced images, and a theoretical explanatory model is adumbrated in terms of information processing in a parallel distributed manner. The text is highly recommended to those with research interests in neuropsychology, the volume is attractively produced and given the high quality of the illustrations, sensibly priced.

DAVID NEARY

The ventricle of memory: Personal Recollections of Some Neurologists. By MACDONALD CRITCHLEY. (Pp 213; Price: \$49.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1990.

The reading itineraries of most neurologists will have already strayed from standard journals and texts through the "magic wardrobe" and into the bewitching lands of "*The black hole*", "*The divine banquet of the brain*", and "*The citadel of the senses*". These collections of uniquely personal essays flowing from the pen of our neurological paterfamilias Macdonald Critchley have afforded much pleasure and enlightenment. The arrival of another volume "*The ventricle of memory*" whets our appetite and nurtures a sense of excited anticipation. Has the master, now an octogenarian, retained his touch?

You may dismiss any such apprehension. Here are the personal impressions of a variety of neurological friends, now departed: a pastiche of impressions created "as their lives crossed mine". They are biographical vignettes, ranging from W James Adie, Geoffrey Jefferson, Riddoch and Walshe from England, through Alajouanine, Raymond Garcin, René Leriche, Jean Lhermitte and Kurt Goldstein from Europe, to his American colleagues, Bender, Irving Cooper and Wechsler. Graeme Robertson of

Australia, Monrad-Krohn of Oslo and Fritz Grewel of Amsterdam, *inter alia*, have further extended his remarkable circle of friends.

But the biographer's first duty, Samuel Johnson remarked, was not to dwell "on those performances and incidents which produce vulgar greatness," but to "lead the thoughts into domestic privacies". In these short essays Macdonald Critchley does just that. He gives anecdotes, affording us insights into these distinguished lives in his inimitable, scholarly, yet always engaging style. His writing makes compulsive reading and one must ration oneself to a chapter at a time for fear of devouring these intriguing histories all at once. He is self-effacing, but his profound knowledge of many languages and his erudite understanding of the arts shine out from every page. He is always generous in his commentaries, passing lightly over those oddities, quirks and foibles which many of his famous subjects possessed. No doubt they added to their charisma, but discomfited their colleagues from time to time. These qualities only add to the fascination of the spell they cast.

Like all good writers, Macdonald Critchley leaves us wanting more—much more!

JMS PEARCE

Rehabilitation of the Adult and Child with Traumatic Brain Injury. 2nd Edition. By M ROSENTHAL, E R GRIFFITH, M R BOND, J D MILLER. (Pp 652; £53.23.) Beckenham: F A Davis & Co. 1990.

It is only in recent years that adequate facilities for the rehabilitation of the head injured have been sought by the Regional Centres responsible for their immediate care within the National Health Service. Despite the fact that head injuries are so much more common than those of injuries to the spine, it is still unusual for the head injured victim to find a properly conceived and organised rehabilitation programme. This is the message given by Bryan Jennett in his foreword to the second edition of this book on "*The Rehabilitation of the adult and child with traumatic brain injury*". In the first edition Mitchell Rosenthal, one of the editors, in his preface suggests that the initial impetus for the writing of the book stems from a post-graduate course on rehabilitation held in 1977. He states this was the only course held on an annual basis in the United States and certainly there was no such course provided in the United Kingdom. He comments in his foreword on the dearth of previous texts or articles directed towards rehabilitation. This certainly requires no further emphasis.

The first edition was successful and has now been expanded to include head injured children and, to a lesser extent those subject to birth trauma. Dr Griffith, the co-ordinating editor, suggests that this work is the only one to encompass all disabilities resulting from brain injury both in adults and children. As colleagues in the editorial work, Griffith and Rosenthal have been joined by Michael Bond, psychiatrist from Glasgow and Douglas Miller, Professor of Surgical Neurology in Edinburgh. I feel, between them, with careful selection of authors from all areas of medical and surgical neurology and rehabilitation they have produced a most useful and comprehensive account of the problems and their potential solution. There are sections on early evaluation and man-

agement and a careful account of the neurological evaluation followed by a useful chapter on assessing and predicting outcome. Professor Jennett brings up to date his well known views and experience on the prediction of post-traumatic epilepsy. Movement disorders, communication disorders, cognitive defects, behavioural and psychiatric sequelae are all dealt with. There is a useful chapter on the rehabilitation of a minor head injury.

The book is comprehensive in its 617 pages and should provide advice not only for those responsible for the after care of the head injured but also help those involved in litigation work assessing the prospects of a given head injured claimant.

It was a little disappointing to find scant attention paid to birth trauma as a cause of ongoing disability and whilst the recommendations with regard to rehabilitation are available, there is little here to predict outcome and expectation in children severely afflicted by other direct birth trauma or indirect anoxic encephalopathy during the birth process. Although the question of early assessment is addressed, advice as to what may be anticipated with longterm prognosis is not considered. I feel this probably results from the fact that there are few studies available and perhaps this is a matter Dr Bruce may address in what I hope will be an early third edition. Browsing through the volume I found much that was of interest and of value but sorry to see that the medical-legal aspects of head injury were dismissed in some eleven pages and that these matters were seen from the Massachusetts field of legislation. Joy Cook who writes on returning to work after head injury, again is concerned with the American head injured victim and we have no mention of the United Kingdom DRO. courses on rehabilitation or the provisions of the National Insurance acts which figure so largely in assessing the financial implications of injuries to the head in the UK.

Despite these slight strictures and perhaps factors worthy of reconsideration in a further edition, I think this book is useful, draws attention to the distinct possibilities of an improvement in the longterm head injury services of the United Kingdom in particular, and by implication other countries in the western world.

J B FOSTER

The Cerebrospinal Fluid. Edited by ROBERT M. HERNDON AND ROGER A. BRUMBACK. (Pp 306; Price Dfl. 300.00, US \$110.00 UK £78.25). Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers 1989.

This book derives from the collaborative efforts of Herndon, with a strong background in electron microscopy of CSF cells, and Brumback with the clear view from paediatrics, especially infections of the CNS. They have gathered into their fold others from the previous Johns Hopkins Group (Brooks) and Washington St. Louis (Trotter). There are several others with equal expertise and/or prior interests. The team output is first class. They start with chapters on history, anatomy and physiology, hydrocephalus, CSF collection, and intrathecal therapy. They then move on to infections, immunoglobulins, and non-immunoglobulins.

The final portion is directed to cytology: