

cerebello-pontine angle of the Neurosurgical and Otolaryngological Departments of the hospitals of Marseilles, France. The first third of the book is an excellent review of the anatomy of the petrous and peripetrous regions. The middle third contains a detailed account of the various surgical approaches to cerebello-pontine angle lesions used by the Marseilles team. The final third details their experience in the surgery of these lesions for the period 1973 to 1986. The text is translated from the French by Dr David Le Vais.

Although this is no doubt accurate, the effect is at times rather turgid. The sentences are often over-long and contain frequent archaisms, eg "hebetude", which remind one regularly that one is reading a work in translation. The anatomical section is good but would be much improved by illustrations in colour rather than black and white. The section on the surgical approaches is detailed, and even a newcomer to the field of otoneurosurgery should be able to follow the approaches described; but here again, the illustrations are black and white photographs or line drawings, and would have benefited by being in colour, especially the line drawings which are rather disappointing.

For those surgeons working in the otoneurosurgical area the final section is the most interesting. It details the substantial experience of the authors in dealing with the majority of the various lesions which may be found in the cerebello-pontine angle. They not only give their results, but describe in some detail the problems which they have encountered in accumulating their experience. The volume is expensive (DM 298) and at this price is rather disappointing. The illustrations are not of sufficient quality to make it useful as a "textbook of surgical technique" and since the results are those of the authors it does not provide a comprehensive "overview" of this complex and challenging field. But nevertheless it should find a place within the Departmental Libraries of those units who have developed a particular interest in cerebello-pontine angle lesions.

DAVID G HARDY

**Acquired Neurological Speech/Language Disorders in Childhood.** Brain Damage Behaviour and Cognition Series. Edited by BE MURDOCH. Pp 347; Price £40.00 (Cloth), £19.00 (Paperback). London, Taylor & Francis, 1990. ISBN 0-85066-490-X. ISBN 0-85066-491-8 pbk.

There is a large literature on congenital and developmental speech and language disorders in children and voluminous data on acquired disorders in adults. Dealing with *acquired* disorders of speech and language in childhood, this book fills an unmet need. It seems to be aimed at a readership which includes Speech Therapists and Speech Pathologists and Clinical Psychologists (particularly those with research interest) but I think the book will also be sufficiently valuable to Neurologists who deal with children for it to be in the libraries of all children's hospitals and Neurology Departments. The authors most of whom are in the Department of Speech and Hearing at the University of Queensland have brought together an analysis of the world literature and their own work in ten well referenced chapters.

Two chapters discuss acquired childhood aphasia, first dealing with neuropathology linguistic characteristics and prognosis, and secondly with assessment and treatment. The Landau-Kleffner syndrome and its sub-types are properly discussed but some readers may be confused by the term "convulsive disorder" which is evidently used in parts of Australia (as it is in parts of the United States) for either epilepsy or for the situation in which the EEG contains discharges or spikes.

Therapeutic or educational management of this syndrome is well discussed, although the occasional important beneficial effects of corticosteroids are not emphasised. Other chapter titles are Speech and Language Disorders following Childhood Closed Head Injury, Communicative Disorders in Childhood Infectious Diseases, Linguistic status following Acute Cerebral Anoxia in Children, Linguistic Problems Associated with Childhood Metabolic Disorders, Communicative Impairments in Neural Tube Disorders, Speech and Language Disorders in Childhood Brain Tumours, Effect of CNS Prophylaxis on Speech and Language Function in Children, and Acquired Childhood Speech Disorders: Dysarthria and Dyspraxia. There is a tendency to begin the discussion of various disorders with a somewhat basic description which neurological readers might want to skim, but this approach will make the book more useful for those in earlier phases of education. Chapters discuss both the neuropathological substrate and the associated speech and language disorder, but the connection between the two, that is the mechanism by which the lesion alters the child's communicative abilities, is often unclear, pointing to the needs of further research. The index is patchy and too short.

It is perhaps excusable to deal with Reye's syndrome in two lines with the conclusion "the prognosis is poor", but that there is plenty of scope for speech and language evaluation of survivors of this and similar metabolic encephalopathies. There are two surprising apparent omissions. One is of Rasmussen's chronic encephalitis (recently linked to persistent cytomegalovirus infection) and the other is the opercular syndrome. Although the opercular syndrome as an acquired disorder (for example after meningitis or encephalitis) is rare in childhood, it is a situation where the speech disorder (anarthria) has a sound anatomical basis. The authors touch on developmental aspects of humour and joke appreciation and the use of such knowledge in evaluating children of different ages with acquired disorders of language. Humour development in the assessment of acquired dysphasia is discussed both in the body of the text and in one of the rather few but detailed case histories, and is one of the worthwhile topics for research stimulated by this book. Do get it for one of your staff.

JBP STEPHENSON

**Biological Treatments in Psychiatry.** By M LADER AND R HERRINGTON. (Pp 403; Price £15.00.) Oxford, Oxford University Press. 1990. ISBN 019-261939-X (pbk).

**Emphases change in clinical psychiatry.** Psychodynamic psychiatry held sway in the 1940s and 50s, social psychiatry was dominant in the 60s and 70s, and now in the 80s and 90s biological aspects attract most interest.

Lader and Herrington, one a psychopharmacologist, the other a general psychiatrist, have responded to the need for a clear, up-to-date exposition of a bewildering array of biological treatments in psychiatry—and have done so admirably. I suspect their book will rapidly become the standard text in the field and be indispensable to the psychiatrist-in-training.

The book is in two main sections—principles and practice. Chapters on such subjects as neuropharmacology, behavioural studies, evaluation and pharmacokinetics (this chapter gives an exceptionally clear account of what is to the clinician a difficult area) are followed by chapters devoted to different groups of drugs (eg antidepressants and antipsychotics) and other biological treatments such as ECT and psychosurgery. Indications, effectiveness, and side effects are outlined with many references to back up their statements. The authors also include two chapters, one on the young and the other on the elderly—I found the former short and unhelpful.

We can expect many new drugs in psychiatry this decade. Some such as fluoxetine (an antidepressant) and remoxipride (an antipsychotic) have already appeared and are being more fully evaluated. If this book is successful, and I suspect it will be, the authors should already be working on the second edition.

RG McCREADIE

**Handbook of Peripheral Nerve Entrapments.** By O A TURNER, N TASLITZ AND S WARD. (Pp 227; Price: £59.10) Chichester, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 1990. ISBN 0-896031462.

**Entrapment Neuropathies, 2nd Edition.** By D M DAWSON, M HALLETT, AND L H MILLENDER. (Pp 434; Price \$69.50), 1990. Boston, Little, Brown & Co. ISBN 0-316-17743-1.

From the titles one might expect these books to overlap, and of course to some extent they are bound to, but their presentation, and the purpose for which they were written, are so different, that one compliments the other.

The *Handbook* is just that—a book to have to hand when faced with a possible nerve entrapment. Large print and diagrams makes it quick and easy to read (even perhaps while actually examining a patient!). Each chapter has a detailed anatomical description of a nerve, the aetiology of its possible entrapment, the resulting symptoms and signs, and the authors' advice on treatment. Perhaps the anatomy is too detailed, with too little illustration for the average clinician to absorb, but aetiology and clinical findings are clearly listed, though when dealing with non-surgical conditions producing a comparable picture there is an irritating tendency to mention a few, and then say "and so forth" or "etc" in a way unhelpful to a clinician who thinks his patient might have one of the "and so forths." The diagrams of sensory loss are huge and clear, but barely allow for the many individual variations. Interesting and unusual entrapments are described under "miscellaneous"—e.g. occipital, abdominal, axillary, supraclavicular nerves. The dorsal primary ramus of C2 is said to be "distributed to the scalp anteriorly to the cranial vertex." I feel that needs re-phrasing. The book ends