cytotoxic oedema agents. I particularly enjoyed the article by Etienne and Hakim, on the clinical testing of compounds that might modify acute and chronic neurodegenerative disorders. The final section, without any introduction is entitled Novel Compounds. It is a confusing potpourri relating to novel anti-convulsants, NMDA antagonists and anxiolytics and apart from giving an impression of new directions, gives little else to the non-pharmacologist.

I found the text disconcerting because of the multitude of different type sets used. It does give the impression of rapid and (perhaps unfairly) careless assembly. One had a similar impression of the editorial control. As regards content, there were areas of interest obviously in stroke therapy and also in the development of new anti-convulsants and the review articles at the beginning of each section were generally excellent. I did not feel however, that these alone justified purchasing such an expensive text which is probably only of value to the Pharmacologist and Clinician with a detailed knowledge and research interest of the neuro-pharmacology of these disorders. I could not therefore, generally recommend this book.

IAN BONE

Evoked Potential Manual. A Practical Guide to Clinical Applications. 2nd Revised Edition. Edited by EJ COLON AND SL VISSER. (Pp 358; Price: Dfl 250.00, US\$ 149.00, UK£ 86.00.) Dordrecht, Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, 1990. ISBN 0-7923-0791-7

A purpose written book yet uneven in style, language and references, as if a conference date or place may have been overlooked or omitted. The first is a useful general chapter on technical and methodological considerations on the measurements of evoked responses. Individual chapters on all types of evoked potentials follow, detailing the short, long and middle latency responses. A chapter on magnetic stimulation, both transcranial and transcranial and one on event related potentials end the volume.

The book deals with the advantages, drawbacks and pitfalls of the various stimuli, electrode placement, source of artefacts, setting up control studies etc; it even deals with where to place a department of clinical neurophysiology! It gives anatomical and theoretical background and explanations of the various procedures. The one on visual evoked responses and the one on somatosensory potentials each give a paragraph on brain mapping as well. From the clinician's point of view, the best chapter is the one on visual evoked responses. Controversial theories and findings are mentioned or described in all chapters; only those which give a short summary with critical comment after each debate do help to clear rather than add to the confusion. For more than one reason the manual qualifies as heavy—not least because of its weight. Heavy language throughout; it feels like a translation and searching for a verb may or may not result in finding it at the end of a long sentence. The editor missed out on an abundance of misprints which do not make the reading any easier. Just a few examples: discuss, degrease, potential, will give the flavour. References are plentiful and relevant

including many up-to-date ones, an excellent feature and an asset to the book. After one of the chapters the bibliography is Vancouver style, all other lists appear in alphabetical (Harvard) order. The reasons for the inconsistency remain obscure. The subject index is erratic. Altogether ten clinical conditions are mentioned, Reye's, Wilson's, Huntington's disease among the ten; other diseases, occasionally or often dealt with in the text are omitted from the index, Multiple Sclerosis being one of the many omissions. The logic escapes me. The book assumes considerable knowledge of the field and limits its usefulness to the exclusion of the uninitiated in the techniques of electrophysiology. However it will be very helpful when introducing and setting up new techniques in an electrophysiological laboratory, both clinical and research.

MELIAN

Progress in Clinical Neurological Trials Vol. 1 Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Edited by F CLIFFORD ROSE. (Pp 238). New York, Demos Publications, 1990. ISBN 0-939957-23-X

This publication brings together the papers presented at the meeting held at Charing Cross Hospital in June, 1988, and devoted to the Consideration of Therapeutic Trials in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. The organiser of the meeting, F. Clifford Rose, is also this book's Editor.

Whilst the aetiology and pathogenesis of the disease remain unknown, the clinical picture in its various guises, is usually easily recognised. The course of the disease however, can be unpredictable but only with regards to the rate of deterioration and the length of survival to the inevitable fatal outcome.

Many chapters are devoted to the assessment and measurement of the motor deficit, muscle strength, bulbar dysfunction including dysphagia, and the help that electromyography can provide in this process. The ethical issues in the conduct of trials in such a disease, and in particular regarding the use of placebos, are sensitively considered. Definite preliminary evidence of the disease is a prerequisite for a well constructed placebo based therapeutic trial. Such trials are going on all the time; and in so much as this book gives good background reading to the researcher and the evaluating clinician, it can be recommended reading.

KJ ZILKHA

Management of Childhood Brain Tumors. Edited by MELVIN DEUTSCH. (Pp 523; Price: Dfl 410.00; US\$ 175.00; UK£123.25). Dordrecht, Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, 1990. ISBN 0-792-30669-4

This multi-author volume is the third in a series on Foundations of Neurological Surgery. All 26 contributors are from North America and the experience of two major centres of paediatric neurology in Pittsburgh

and in Toronto provide the majority of the clinical background for the views presented. The editor, who contributes a third of the 24 chapters, correctly states in his introduction that there has been major progress in the management of paediatric brain tumours in the last 20 years. It is arguable that the improvements in paediatric practice in this area have been more striking than those seen in adult neuro-oncology. Specifically improved shunts and methods of tumour excision, together with radiotherapy and chemotherapy, have resulted in radically improved results in certain types of tumour, for example a 70% 5 year survival in many stages of medulloblastoma.

This is a comprehensive textbook which provides well referenced review chapters in all the relevant areas, including neuropathology, neuroradiology, surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy of childhood brain tumours and spinal tumours. Several aspects of management of paediatric brain tumours remain controversial. In neuropathological classification the use of the term PNET (primitive neuroectodermal tumour) has been hotly debated and in the long and well referenced neuropathology chapter in this book this controversy, and others, is addressed in a very even-handed way. Equally controversial matters, which have led to strident disputes, are addressed in the excellent chapters on gliomas of the visual pathway, on craniopharyngioma, and on tumours of the cerebral hemispheres. Other more common tumours like medulloblastomas and cerebellar astrocytomas, where at present basic and clinical aspects are less controversial are also described in depth with clear reviews. Although paediatric neuro-oncology has made long and quite rapid strides recently, a consensus still has not been arrived at concerning many aspects of management. In several chapters it is made clear that progress in this field requires multicentre, possibly multinational, studies.

This book can be recommended to all in the neurosciences, whether neurobiologists, neurologists or neurosurgeons as well as to radiotherapists and medical oncologists. It is well produced but expensive. It should find a place in all departmental libraries at centres where children with brain tumours are treated.

DGT THOMAS

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders 2nd Edition Theory and Management. Edited by MA JENIKE, L BAER AND WM E MINICHIELLO. (Pp 436; Price: £38.50). London, Wolfe Publishing Ltd, 1990. ISBN 0-8151-4888-7

1980 saw the first published reports of efficacy for pharmacological treatment for Obsessive Compulsive Disorders (OCD). Over the subsequent decade there has been an explosion of interest in the investigation of this intriguing illness, and many long-held myths have been dispelled. We now know, for example, that OCD is a common disorder and that treatment with certain drugs, notably those with 5HT-uptake inhibitor properties is likely to be effective.

The discovery of specific pharmacological treatments for OCD has not only revolutionised clinical management but also has initiated research in this previously neglected area. The body of knowledge is quickly

growing, and this is properly reflected by the massive revision of this book, after only four years. The second edition which has grown by several chapters now includes contributions from 37 experienced authorities, from a variety of disciplines, many of whom are involved in research in this field, and is most welcome.

The revised text provides a comprehensive overview of current knowledge of OCD, and includes chapters covering topics such as epidemiology, aetiology, neurobiology and treatment strategies. Chapters are well-written and generously referenced, and the inclusion of a section on rating scales is a bonus. The text highlighted many important unanswered questions, and although I detected an occasional tendency toward critical leniency, with premature acceptance of arguments which still remain controversial. On the whole, I found this a well-balanced, up-to-date thought provoking book, which I recommend to all those interested in the illness.

NAOMI FINEBERG

Neurology in Clinical Practice Vols I and II. Edited by W G BRADLEY, R B DAROFF, G M FENICHEL AND C D MARSDEN. (Pp Vol. I 925, Vol. II 2029; Price £160.00 set.) Guildford, Butterworth-Heinemann, 1991. ISBN 0 409 90080 X (set).

Four distinguished principal editors, 11 associate editors and over 130 contributors have provided this monumental work in two impressive volumes. Multi-author texts now abound so that the choice for a major reference textbook is frankly becoming bewildering. These two volumes represent a major achievement. The approach which the editors have employed follows the lines of that adopted in Harrison's text on internal medicine, as followed by Adams and Victor in their popular "Principles of Neurology". In other words, in Volume I, Part I, there are some 35 chapters describing an approach to common neurological problems and each dealing with topics such as episodic impairment of consciousness, language disorders, visual loss, dizziness and vertigo, the hypotonic infant, arm and neck pain, to select but a few. Part II deals with neurological investigations including clinical neurophysiology, neuropsychology and neuroimaging, while in Part III related clinical neurosciences such as neuroepidemiology, neurogenetics, neuroimmunology, etc., are handled. The remainder of Volume I is devoted to principles of neurological management covering topics such as neuropharmacology, neurosurgery, the management of disability, neonatology and neurological problems in the elderly.

Volume II deals more specifically with individual neurological disorders, but even here, while the range covered is extensive, the approach and the choice of chapter headings is unusual. In particular, the final chapter in the book deals with regional neurology: the different sections cover specific problems in various parts of the tropics.

It would be an impossible task within a reasonable time-span for a reviewer to read the whole of these two volumes. It may perhaps suffice to say first that this work

strikes me as being exceptionally well planned and organised and remarkably comprehensive. The unevenness characteristic in any such multi-author text is evident. Many chapters end with exceptionally useful reference lists while other authors have been more selective in identifying a small number of seminal papers to accompany their reviews. However, the many illustrations, innumerable graphs, bar diagrams and tables are in general of outstanding quality and many are in colour. I am in no doubt that this excellent two-volume work will find a place of honour on my shelves and that I shall turn to it frequently. Considering its magnitude and scope, the price is reasonable. All university and departmental libraries will wish to have a copy and I have no doubt that many individual neurologists who dip into this work in a library will find it so useful that they will wish to have their own copy for regular consultation.

JOHN WALTON
(LORD WALTON OF DETCHANT)

Pathophysiology of the Nervous System.

By L SUDARSKY. (Pp 321 Illustrated; Price £18.95). Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone, 1990. ISBN 0316 821179.

This book is addressed to students, or past students. The style is terse, brisk, even jokey. Facts are rarely qualified. The longest sentence has 22 words. Most have only one verb. Everything is concise, dogmatic and didactic. This style has a certain appeal. Now you have sampled it you can decide.

Short sentences are generally a virtue, especially in other people, but the effect here is disjointed. This is not just the brevity. Sequential sentences are sometimes unrelated, and the topic may change midway through a paragraph. Most illustrations are photocopies, and a single motor unit is blown up to occupy half a page, but complex drawings are shrunk until the labelling is illegible. The fresh captions do not always match the figure. The index can send you astray.

This is all discouraging, but such faults can be compensated by solid facts. These abound, but are not reliable. It is untrue that most single seizures do not recur, or that the ulnar nerve winds through the ulnar groove, or that the anterior horn cell is vulnerable because it supports a large axon, or that cerebral arteries are permeable to large molecules.

Martin Samuels' foreword says that this is a book we have been seeking for many years. Well, in a way. The demise of *Neurological Pathophysiology*, a well-structured and informative book, has certainly left a gap. If this new one could be rearranged and better presented, and its facts checked, it could fill it.

N J LEGG

Clinical Aspects of Panic Disorder.

Frontiers of Clinical Neuroscience Series Vol 9. Edited by J C BALLENGER. (Pp 328; Price: \$96.00.) 1990. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. ISBN 0 471 56694 2.

This volume follows *Neurobiology of Panic Disorder* (reviewed: January 1991). There

are 22 sections by 52 contributors, all but four of them from North America. The editor admits to the biological emphasis but the absence of psychotherapeutic consideration leads to a very one-sided consideration of the clinical aspects of the disorder. Not all the sections relate to the topic of panic disorder: there are two sections on benzodiazepine drugs. Another section reports a drug trial which has been published elsewhere and another section, the section on psychology had been covered in the companion volume. Considerations of the relationship of panic disorder to depression is extended over four sections and the cardiovascular manifestations of the disorder is covered in two sections. All this reduplication of material results in another large and expensive volume which the working clinician can well forego. The serious researcher in the field may find it convenient to have the material collected under one cover since it is well referenced. Unfortunately the volume appears before publication of information which really interests the practising clinician, which is the result of the latest collaborative research on the comparison of antidepressant drugs and alprazolam.

One important inclusion which is not to be found elsewhere is an estimate of the cost of investigations in the cardiological department, for patients presenting to such a department suffering from panic disorder. This amounted to \$1,677 per patient. Such sums should encourage budget holders of health care services to require effective screening for the disorder.

R P SNAITH

SHORT NOTICE

Neck and Arm Pain. 3rd Edition. By RENE CAILLIET. (Pp 226; Illustrated; Price £12.50). Beckenham, F A Davis & Co, 1991. ISBN 0 8036 1610 4.

This very useful and unusual book may have escaped the attention of British Neurologists. Written by a distinguished Physical Medicine expert from Los Angeles it provides a beautifully illustrated account of the mechanical, anatomical and physiological factors related to the cervical spine and its many diseases. There are substantial sections on subluxation, whiplash injury and cervical root syndromes, as well as considerations of the mechanisms of pain in the neck and upper limbs. Diseases of the cervical disc are discussed and illustrated in detail, the emphasis being understandably on physical principles. The neurologist may object to this somewhat mechanistic approach, but it does provide valuable detail and imaginative pictures which will facilitate understanding.