

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.

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#### **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

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## SHORT NOTICE

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**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.