

Brain in Pediatric AIDS. Edited by P B KIZLOWSKI, D A SNIDER, P M VIETZE, H M WISNIEWSKI. (Pp 204; Price: SFr 196; DM 235; £85.30; US\$ 145.25.) 1990 New York, Karger. ISBN 3 8055 5216 5.

This book is the published proceedings of a conference on "Brain and Behaviour in Pediatric HIV Infection" held in July 1989 under the auspices on the New York State Institute for Basic Research and Developmental Disabilities.

There is much of interest to the non-specialist and to developmental paediatricians and paediatric neurologists. Initial chapters include papers on epidemiology—with alarming descriptions of the extent of the public health problem of AIDS in New York, and also diagnosis. Lucid descriptions of the proper approach to the diagnostic problems of congenital versus acquired immune deficiency, and of the young infant with positive antibody tests but no clinical features of HIV infections are presented in detail.

The chapters on static and progressive encephalopathy are of the greatest interest with constant emphasis on the clinical and pathological differences between paediatric and adult HIV brain infection. In paediatric HIV encephalopathy seizures are rare and are symptomatic of vascular, neoplastic or infective complications. The organisation and delivery of services for these children and their families do much to support the case management model and there is much to be learnt by this approach in ensuring co-ordination and effectiveness of services for children with other complex disabilities.

The final chapters on neuropathology, myelination and infection of foetal tissue (which occurs without inflammatory response) accurately portray what is known about HIV encephalopathy. This book can be recommended as an excellent example of the way in which a multi-disciplinary symposium may lead to an extremely useful and readable publication.

MA CLARKE

Essential Neurosurgery. By ANDREW H KAYE. (Pp 407 Illustrated; Price £15.95.) Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone, 1990. ISBN 0 443 04350 7.

Essential Neurosurgery is a basic text book for undergraduates and junior surgical trainees. The book is an important addition to undergraduate text books in the subject, the last two suffering from the absence of modern neuro-imaging techniques, in particular MRI scanning. On the whole this is an excellent text. It is well organised and clearly set out with appropriate headings in each section. It generally follows a well ordered plan. It is well illustrated with plain x-rays, myelography, CT scanning and MR. There are also good line drawings and useful tables.

It is inevitable that any single author book which aims to cover such a wide topic in brief, will have the occasional omission, but these are relatively few. The author covers controversial areas satisfactorily, but would seem to prefer intracranial work as he expresses less strong, and rather more conservative opinions regarding spinal surgery. For instance he does not refer to the

use of the anterior approaches to thoracic and lumbar spines which are increasingly used now that there is a combined neuro-orthopaedic approach to problems of spinal pathology and stability.

Other minor quibbles reflect an Australian background to this otherwise satisfactory book. Australian rules on driving after craniotomy are different from the United Kingdom, where more stringent regulations pertain. Finally AIDS would seem to be less common in Melbourne than it is in Central London, and this important and increasing part of clinical practice probably deserves more than one page of text.

MICHAEL POWELL

Parkinson's Disease: A Guide for Patient and Family — Third Edition. By ROGER C DUVOISIN. (Pp 207; Price \$19.50 (p/bk), \$36.00 (h/bk)). New York, Raven Press, 1990. ISBN 0 88167 729 9.

Roger Duvoisin has produced the third edition of his book first published in 1978. The second edition came out only six years ago and the fact that the present edition has been widely revised and rewritten indicates the advances and changes of emphasis that have taken place in the last six years. However, in spite of this the present edition is beginning to look dated. For example the section on Pyridoxine has been included although since the introduction of decarboxylase inhibitors it is of borderline importance. Little attention is paid to the problems of mental changes in parkinsonism—a subject which causes great concern to the patient and ever greater concern to his family. And, foetal brain implant surgery is set aside as costly and ineffective; but patients will surely want to know what steps are being taken (and what hope there is of their success) to improve this technique—irrespective of cost.

Patients with Parkinson's disease create a great demand for information about the condition and this tends to improve doctor/patient relationships and communication. It is disappointing that this book now only partly fills the need for up to date information to achieve optimal management of Parkinson's disease.

R B GODWIN-AUSTEN

Neuropathic Bladder in Childhood. Series: Clinics in Developmental Medicine No. 111. Edited by M BORZYSKOWSKI AND A R MUNDY. (Pp 115; Price £16.00.) Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd; Philadelphia, J B Lippincott Co, 1990. ISBN (UK) 0 632 02841 6; (USA) 0 397 48020 2.

This is a volume from the very good series "Clinics in Developmental Medicine."

It is largely written by Guy's Hospital based or trained authors, and the fact that they have worked so closely together makes this book a nice even read, though with some repetition. It deals comprehensively with all matters of management of childhood neuropathic bladder, from investigations to conservative and surgical treatments. It includes also chapters on the management of sexual and psychological problems which are of increasing importance, since these

children, as a result of greatly improved urological management, are reaching adulthood in greater numbers and are living longer.

Video urodynamic evaluation of these patients is a relatively new specialty and has given rise to a vocabulary which will not be familiar to many non-urologists. An acronymous vocabulary has regrettably also arisen. Although this book provides a glossary of abbreviations in the introduction, these are used extensively throughout the text and it makes the reading of some chapters much more difficult when one constantly has to refer to the glossary. Surely "genuine stress incontinence" and "physically handicapped" can be written in place of G.S.I. and P.H. The chapter on major surgical reconstruction techniques is full and clear but will be of interest perhaps only to practising urologists who will (and can) find these techniques discussed and illustrated comprehensively in urological literature.

Apart from these few points this is a very good book which will be of great interest. I am very pleased to see that the editors do not shirk the issues of the anti-abortion lobby and the policy of early closure of the back defects in myelomeningoceles. Their views are clearly stated, and I believe correct.

JD JENKINS

An Introduction to Neurotransmission in Health and Disease. Edited by R RIEDERER, N KOPP AND J PEARSON. (Pp 398; Price £50.00.) 1990. ISBN 0 19 261431 2.

Clinicians may be bemused by the pace of advance in basic neuroscience. New discoveries appear so quickly that it is difficult to keep abreast of a single field, let alone the overall picture. The situation can only get more difficult as molecular biology expands our horizons. However, help is on hand in this volume, which provides a starting point (circa 1989) on which to build a store of knowledge. This is not a printed record of the proceedings of a conference! As indicated by the title, the accent is on chemical neurotransmission in the nervous system, its anatomy and pharmacology.

Thirty four chapters (by different authors) are broadly divided into sections on General Phenomena, Neuroendocrinology, Autonomic systems, Locomotion, Emotion-Pain and Addiction, Higher Cerebral Function. Each chapter is only about half a dozen pages long, so can be read with ease to give an overview, and there is a good list of references. In my own areas of interest, the chapters on Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease were comprehensive, but not overwhelming. However, it was of great interest to browse through chapters on subjects of which I am ignorant. They were uniformly of high standard, easy to read, and informative. If one needs to know the state of the art in fields such as motor neurone disease, schizophrenia, anxiety, drug-dependency, coma, epilepsy and so on, this is the place to turn. The editors (and their authors) are to be congratulated on producing a valuable book, to which many will refer as a starting point for understanding modern views on transmission, and its impact in disease.

CD MARSDEN