desire to suggest direction for future investigation and a chapter should have been reserved for this purpose.

To the connoisseur the meal was perhaps disappointing. However several of the dishes are to be recommended, especially the first course. The book aimed to provide a clear direction for future study which I feel it unfortunately failed to achieve.

ANGUS KENNEDY

Surgery for Epilepsy. Contemporary Issues in Neurological Surgery. Edited by SUSAN S SPENCER AND DENNIS D SPENCER. (Pp 201 Illustrated; Price £39.50.) Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1990. ISBN 0 86542 089 0.

This brief book, less than 200 pages, has been written by a distinguished group of North American contributors in response to the renewed interest in the surgical treatment of epilepsy. The first section covers preoperative selection, the use of intracranial electrodes and special considerations in children. The second section covers specific operative treatments and the third section is a single chapter describing the outcome of treatment including aspects other than seizure control.

This attempt to provide a simple and comprehensive guide to the surgical treatment of epilepsy deserves considerable sympathy. The standard of the contributions is high. Often topics are discussed in detail, for example intracranial recording, but with the omission of techniques which are not used locally. The section on temporal lobe surgery describes two or three methods in detail, omitting others of importance and giving no guidance as to how they should be used. Only one method of hemispherectomy is described in detail, and the only application of functional surgery described is callosotomy. The contributions of modern brain imaging and the place of neuropathology are hardly mentioned.

However, within this narrow parochial view, topics are discussed in detail and one has the impression of attending a series of honest, interested but restricted local seminars. This book would fail to impress those with some knowledge of epilepsy surgery and may mislead the uninformed.

CE POLKEY

Pediatric Neurology: Behavior and Cognition of the Child with Brain Dysfunction. Series: Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine. Edited by N AMIR, I RAPIN AND D BRANSKI. (Pp 186; Price: Sfr 174; DM 208; UK £75.70; US\$ 139.25). Basel: Karger, 1991. ISBN 3 8055 5223 8.

A distinguished group of child neurologists, psychiatrists, psychologists and educationalists contribute to the aims of creating a meeting ground and of facilitating communication between specialists whose primary interests in disturbances of higher brain functions are diverse. Some of the authors cross the artificial boundaries between the various disciplines more successfully than others.

A multidisciplinary approach is attained well in the chapters on innate specialisation

for emotion, assessment of psychiatric status in the child with cerebral palsy, preschool children with inadequate language acquisition, developmental dyslexia and developmental dyscalculia. The contributions on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, tics and the Tourette syndrome, the role of augmentative communication in impaired language acquisition and neuro-psychological assessment of children with developmental disabilities are informative and well-written; so that, even though fewer references to related subspecialties are cited, they contain much interesting and useful material.

Since epileptic seizures, particularly brief and non-convulsive attacks, are recognised as potentially important features in deviant higher brain functions, it is disappointing that a chapter on this subject was not included. Otherwise, the diversity of the material covered and the high standard of virtually all of the text commend it to those, whatever their special interests, who work with children with cerebral dysfunction.

SHEILA J WALLACE

Patient Care in Neurosurgery. Third edition. By NM OYESIKU AND AL AMACHER. (Pp 317; Price: US\$ 37.50). Boston, Mass: Little, Brown & Co. 1990. ISBN 0 316 03640 0.

In this book of just over 300 pages one third covers clinical and neurosurgical physiology and two thirds clinical neurosurgery. It is one of a series entitled Patient Care, written for the American resident in training for neurosurgery. The physiology section contains a limited amount of anatomy, and sections on cerebral blood-flow, intracranial pressure and what is nicely termed "brain water" which are concisely and well presented, are based upon the classical papers in these subjects, with good appended references, and fine simple line diagrams. Furthermore there are good details of the practical procedures in patient monitoring and lists of the necessary equipment.

The clinical neurosurgery section is a synopsis of the main conditions accompanied by practical plans for pre-operative assessment and intra-operative and post-operative management, with good references. One can easily find here basic information such as the Glasgow Coma Scale, the WFNS classification for patients with subarachnoid haemorrhage, clearly listed and referenced. The section concerned with neuroradiology does not include adequate information about MRI and CT scanning in the neurosurgery of today and would benefit from the addition of more detail on techniques, and the basic interpretation of the scans, with a few simple line diagrams as in other parts of the book. A similar criticism could be made of the information on neuropathology but it would be difficult to widen the scope of this book without either increasing the number of pages, or changing from a mildly quaint but readable style to a note form with many more tabulations. Were such changes to be accompanied by a reduction of an inch or so in size this would be the ideal *vade mecum* for the resident in neurosurgery. In its present form it is strongly recommended as a good starting text for the first year registrar in neurosurgery which should be easily available on the ward, although a little large for the coat pocket.

GORDON BROCKLEHURST

Epilepsy: Current Approaches to Diagnosis and Treatment. Edited by DB SMITH. (Pp 276; Price: US\$ 106.50). New York: Raven Press, 1990. ISBN 0 88167 615 2.

The preface to this book begins "Another book on epilepsy?" One certainly has to agree that there have been a profusion of books on epilepsy produced over the last ten or fifteen years and another one probably needs a very clear vision of something new to justify its production.

The book has no aim to be comprehensive. Individual chapters focus on growing points in the field of epilepsy and more controversial management issues. Most chapters are short, to the point and concisely written. Some of the better chapters include discussion of the classification of seizures and epilepsies and their implications, the use of EEG and EEG monitoring, drug selection and the relationship between epilepsy and aggression. The final part of the book is taken up by two appendices which in turn discuss the requirements for clear guidelines for standards of care in epilepsy and some subsequent recommended guidelines for diagnosis and treatment that have been drawn up by the National Association of Epilepsy Centres in the United States. These are of interest and value in view of the developing debate about quality of care and quality of life in epilepsy.

The style of writing is gratifyingly to the point but the book is sparsely illustrated, and those illustrations that are produced are of very poor quality and appear to have been produced by a dot matrix printer. The book should be of interest to those who have a preliminary understanding of epilepsy and its practical management but who wish to explore the more controversial areas in a little more detail. Whether the approach justifies another book on epilepsy can still be questioned.

DAVID CHADWICK

Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain and Spine. Edited by SCOTT W ATLAS. (Pp 1137, illustrated; Price: \$198.00). New York: Raven Press, 1990. ISBN 0 88167 694 2.

This is a refreshingly good book. There are many authors but the editor has achieved a uniform style of presentation and ensured that each chapter is interesting, informative and relevant to current publications. As well as the obligatory account of MR physics there are chapters describing blood flow techniques and MR angiography and also spectroscopy. Although these chapters are brief they point to an expanding role for MR.

There are useful chapters on the biological effects and on safety. Artefacts in imaging of the central nervous system are well illustrated. The chapters follow the usual sequence from developmental lesions through tumours, infections, degenerative conditions, head injury etc., and also consider specific sites eg. pituitary, orbits and spine. The text in general avoids the trap of a repetitive comparison of CT and MR appearances. Each chapter describes details of the MR sequences which provide optimum images and describes the interpretation of these. Other techniques such as angiography

and CT are compared only when appropriate. The text seeks to identify not only the MR abnormalities but the role that MR should play in the investigation and management of patients. Approximately 50% of the book consists of descriptions of the pathology and clinical features of the various disorders; most of these are clear, succinct, accurate, and recent developments are identified and referenced.

The book is comprehensive, well written, and is a pleasure to read. It is extensively illustrated with high quality, clearly annotated illustrations. It is a must for every practising Neuroradiologist and should be available for reference by Neurologists, Neurosurgeons and associated specialists. While the content may be too detailed for general radiologists—either established or in training, they can easily gain clear insight into the application of MR in the investigation of patients with disorders of the nervous system.

E TEASDALE

Pupillography: Methodological Aspects and Application in Diabetes Mellitus. By A. DE VOS. (Pp 140; Price: Dfl 50; US\$28.) 1990. Amsterdam, Thesis Publishers, Bickersgracht 60, 1013 LG Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ISBN 90-5170-063-6.

This small book represents the doctoral thesis of Dr de Vogt and deals with both the techniques and use of pupillometry, particularly in relation to diabetes mellitus. It is undoubtedly for the cognoscenti in the field of disorders of the autonomic nervous system, and there is little of value for the practising neurologist.

A newly developed infrared reflection technique of pupillometry is described, but it is not compared with other techniques. The clinically related chapters do suggest that pupillometry is a particularly sensitive method for detecting subclinical autonomic nerve dysfunction. However, there is little to recommend this book although the research has been competently performed. Doctoral theses should remain in University libraries; there is no need for them to progress to the publishers' printing presses. If some of the work deserves wider exposure then surely the refereed scientific journal is the most appropriate forum.

CHRISTOPHER KENNARD

Nerve Injuries and their Repair: A Critical Appraisal. By SIR SYDNEY SUNDERLAND. (Pp 538 Illustrated; Price: £79.50.) 1990. Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone. ISBN 0-443-04161-X.

It is remarkable how the Second World War engendered individuals who contributed so extensively to knowledge about peripheral nerve injury and the insights that this gives into the neurobiology of peripheral nerve: Paul Weiss in the States, JZ Young and HJ Seddon in the UK and Sidney Sunderland in Australia. Sunderland has been the great chronicler of what happened in that period and subsequently. His gargantuan *Nerves and Nerve Injuries* was first published in 1968,

followed by a second edition 10 years later. On this occasion, instead of producing a third edition, he has provided us with an update. *Nerve Injuries and their Repair: A Critical Appraisal* is a "satellite or companion volume" to what has gone before. Despite the spectacular advances in the neurobiology of peripheral nerve that have accrued in recent years, Sir Sidney has wisely chosen to restrict himself to the subject of nerve injury and repair. The book is written in his characteristic didactic style which relies heavily on tabulation. As in the previous two books, the wealth of information that it contains is enormous. There is inevitable overlap with his previous books, but this is justified in order to make the present work self-contained.

Sir Sidney is happiest where he deals with traumatic lesions of peripheral nerve and their consequences, less so when he ventures into more neurological areas. There are many, for example, who would not find his views on "costoclavicular compression" acceptable; similarly for the mechanism of the carpal tunnel syndrome. These caveats aside, the book is a remarkable achievement and is full of the thoughtful insights of someone who has been actively involved in peripheral nerve injury for no less than 50 years.

PK THOMAS

The Diencephalon and Sleep. Edited by M MANCIA AND G MARINI. (Pp 402; Price: \$72.00). New York, Raven Press. 1990. ISBN 0-88167-682-9.

This book comprises the proceedings of a Satellite Symposium of the Twelfth European Neurosciences Association Meeting held in Stresa on the Lago Maggiore in Italy in September, 1989. The participants were from a wide range of different neurobiological disciplines, principally neuroanatomy, neurophysiology and pharmacology. There was only a small clinical representation.

The Editors have divided the presentations into four sections entitled ascending brain stem projections, hypothalamic regulations of sleep and wakefulness, thalamic mechanisms in the sleep-wake cycle and chemical factors and peripheral events in sleep processes.

Clearly a great deal of fascinating work is going on in the field of experimental sleep research. This book offers a relatively up to date reference source principally for fellow research workers. It is not intended for a clinical audience and although it will undoubtedly be of interest to those who specialise in sleep related problems it does not make easy bedside reading for the general neurologist.

FRED SCHON

Cerebral Contusions, Lacerations and Hematomas. Advances in Neurotraumatology Series, Vol 3, Editor-in-Chief RP VIGOUROUX. (Pp 259 Illustrated; Price DM 160.) Wien, Springer-Verlag. 1991. ISBN 3-211-81982-7.

This not very large volume contains 10 chap-

ters, 9 of which are concerned with the physical effects of trauma on the substance of the brain, while the last deals with evoked potentials in prognosis after head injuries.

The authors are mainly from Germany, with contributors from Greece, Poland, France and Sweden. Though an English language editor is acknowledged in the foreword, it cannot be said that his efforts have been very successful. In any translation there is a likelihood that subtleties of meaning and emphasis will be ironed out and this is certainly so in the present volume which the lazy reader who expects the writer to do the work of rendering complex matters such as the physics of brain injury, easily understood, will find hard reading.

A more serious criticism is that there is little in the book which would be new or interesting to the sort of person to whom such a specialised monograph is presumably aimed. Perhaps an exception is the chapter on cerebellar contusions and haematomas which presents a rather large collection of this uncommon clinical condition. The chapter on evoked potentials is also a useful review of the topic.

There are many illustrations; drawings of complex machinery for delivering blows to the heads of primates or models, elaborate graphs, photographs of contused brain, whole or in section, and CT scans. Each contributor supplies a large list of references.

The book cannot be recommended to the individual though it might be of use in a departmental library.

T KING

Meningiomas. Edited by OSSAMA AL-MEFTY. (Pp 630; Price \$169.00). New York, Raven Press, 1990. ISBN 0-88167-713-2.

This multi-author book is divided into eight main sections: history, pathology and biology, special considerations (children, the elderly, asymptomatic, animals, multiple, bony reaction/invasion and haemangiopericytoma) imaging, adjuvant treatment modalities, adjuvants of surgery—intracranial and spinal. The subject of meningiomas is comprehensively covered. Inevitably in a multi-author book a particular aspect may be covered more than once. But, this helps to maintain the balance between individual views particularly in those aspects of the biology, pathology and management of meningiomas that remain controversial e.g. receptor status, hormonal and dopaminergic manipulation and the role of radiotherapy.

This excellent monograph which is well printed and produced on high quality paper can be thoroughly recommended to all practising neurosurgeons and in particular to the candidates for the Specialist Fellowship in neurosurgery. I not only enjoyed reading it but improved my knowledge. The book is generously illustrated, but a few of the operative photographs would have benefitted from being in colour rather than monochrome. My only reservation is personal in that I do not favour the use of abbreviations (SAS—subarachnoid space; PNM—primary neuraxial meningioma; PEM—primary extraneuraxial meningioma; PIM—primary intracranial meningioma). They are used to excess in a few of the chapters (e.g. chapter 8)