This book has been produced in conjunction with the 2nd International Cleveland Clinic Epilepsy Symposium held in June 1990. However, the topics were assigned, and most of the text was written before the meeting was held.

It is the first major work to deal with all aspects of the surgical treatment of epilepsy since a similar publication from the Palm Desert Epilepsy Symposium, also by Raven Press, in 1987. There are 17 sections dealing with different aspects of this wide and complicated topic. Each section has chapters by knowledgeable and distinguished authors drawn from the active centres of epilepsy surgery all over the world.

As well as chapters dealing with the important but common topics of epilepsy syndromes, neurophysiological evaluation, brain imaging and so forth, there are also chapters dealing with conceptual and ethical considerations, economic aspects and scholarly historical essays. Review chapters covering growing areas in research, for example neuronal grafts, are also included.

Dr Lüders is to be congratulated on the composition of this book and on the high standard he has set. The work is excellent and well produced with excellent illustrations. It is undoubtedly the best reference book for the surgical treatment of epilepsy currently available, and at a very reasonable price.

C POLKEY


This book has the smell of a conference about it. Yet nowhere is this stated; in fact on the back of the title page the publishers state “The material contained in this volume was submitted as previously unpublished material, except in the instances in which credit has been given to the source from which some of the illustrative material was derived.” However, the cat is let out of the bag on p.109 where the contributors begin their chapter with “As this Conference on Headache and Depression demonstrates...” Only then did “Selected Communications” on p.vii in the Contents make sense. I find this disquieting and feel greater frankness is expected from the publishers and editors. In my assessment 11 chapters are reviews and 20 contain varying amounts of original material.

The book is divided into 6 sections. The first on neurochemistry of 5-HT pathways contains a succinct review of 5HT receptor pathways recognised at the time, and under “The Future” mentions 5-HT, with recent studies dated 1988. Another excellent contribution deals with 5-HT receptor subtypes in human superficial temporal, middle meningeal and pial arteries.

The second section deals with chronic headache and mood disorders. The next two sections are devoted to periodicity of affective and headache disorders: the first includes an excellent review of the evidence for hypothalamic involvement in cluster headache by Ekbo and colleagues; the second takes menstrual related complaints as a model of periodicity and contains a considerable amount of data on mood, headache and pharmacological aspects of the premenstrual syndrome.

A section on drugs affecting the serotonergic system has 3 drug trials and 3 reviews and, finally, Selected Communications contain an interesting follow-up study of four pages to the effects of anticonvulsant drugs on sodium and calcium channels and nearly four pages to enhancement of GABAergic inhibition, whilst dealing with the clinical use of anticonvulsant drugs in the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder in just over six pages. In the same chapter there are some differences between USA and UK current practice in the management of status epilepticus. For the treatment, the authors prefer Lorazepam to Diazepam (and no mention is made of Diazemuls). There is a preference for Pheno- barbitone as second line treatment if Diazepam and Phenytion fail, and Chlormethiazole is not mentioned.

These criticisms should not detract from the overall value of a useful, up-to-date, beautifully produced book. It will be of value to established neurologists and to those in training, and is a book to buy and use - not simply to consult in a library. There is as yet (unfortunately) no British equivalent. The Butterworth series should repair this deficiency.

E NIEMAN


The charge of therapeutic nihilism was lev-elled at Neurology in the days when the popular image of a neurologist was a man obsessed with the minutiae of physical examination and the diagnosis of esoteric and untreatable diseases. Nowadays, with advances in treatment of epilepsy, Parkinson’s disease, migraine etc., and the growing involvement of neurologists in the management of stroke and in rehabilitation, the lunch-time banter from colleagues has moderated. Neurology must now be near the top of the Norrington table of therapeutic options.

This textbook of Neuropharmacology emphasises the scientific basis of drug use and its relationship to disease processes. It begins with a lengthy chapter on Fundamentals of drug therapy followed by chapters on Movement disorders, Seizure disorders and Epilepsy, Stroke and Hypoxic-ischaemic disorders, Immune-mediated disorders, Psychiatric disorders, Cognitive disorders, Pain, and Acute drug intoxication. Each chapter deals with the clinical manifestations, the neurochemical and anatomical pathology, and the appropriate pharmacological therapy. The account is comprehensive, clearly explained, and with a proper emphasis on practical applications, but the balance is sometimes uneven. The chapter on psychotherapy could have been omitted, and that on cognitive disorders could have been pruned, as it deals largely with the theoretical aspects of Alzheimer’s disease that can be found elsewhere and the approach to therapy is speculative. The chapter on epilepsy devotes