The text is liberally peppered with excellent charts, schemata, case reports and, exceptionally nowadays, a selective and pertinent list of references. The writing is clear and explicit. For one author to have mastered and digested such a huge area of neurology and to have presented it so plainly is a considerable achievement. I am unaware of any modern comparable text and strongly commend it to all clinical neurologists and especially to their disciples.

JMS PEARCE


This book covers the neurological manifestations of paediatric systemic diseases. It is suggested that it will complement the general paediatric textbook that deals mainly with symptomatic or the disease and the paediatric neurology textbook.

The aim is to assemble and summarise current knowledge and data. It is written specifically for the General Paediatrician, the Paediatric Specialist and the Neurologist.

The contents are arranged in the same way as standard paediatric textbooks listing common neurological complications (including sections on pathophysiology, neuro-pathology, clinical manifestations, and treatment) of nutritional deficiencies, rheumatic diseases, bacterial and viral infections, gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary diseases, renal disease, and endocrine diseases. Each chapter is followed by an extensive list of references. It is easy to read and informative and could certainly be a ready reference when one is presented with an unusual problem.

The forward states that in these days of technology child neurology remains one of the specialties where good clinical skills are important, as is a thorough knowledge of general paediatrics. This book will go a considerable way to achieving these ideals.

MJ NORONHA


Don't let the title of this book deceive you into believing this is a work devoted to neuropsychology or neuropsychiatry. It is very much a neurologist's text, comprising 100 short sections on a variety of cerebral disorders, their recognition, significance and treatment. The main areas covered are mental status, delirium, aphasia, amnesia and the familiar triad of alexia, agraphia and apraxia. There are sections on visual processing, the syndromes of the right hemisphere, frontal, parietal and temporal lobes as well as chapters on epilepsy, head injury, psychiatric disorders and movement disorders.

IAN McKINLAY


Once thought to be an excessively rare oddity, Torette's syndrome may be the commonest of all movement disorders, although prevalence estimates vary hugely from five to 50 per 100,000. It also has the richest symptomaticology, not only of sometimes bizarre and improbable movements, utterances and their uses, but also of disorders of childhood behaviour or obsessive-compulsive disorder (which can be the only manifestation of the Tourette gene, particularly in females). However, until recently only four books had been published on this condition.

Now, like London buses, two more have appeared within months of each other (this Handbook, and the Advances Vol. 58 reviewed above). It is a good book, but it contains too many repetitions and, in my view, is prohibitively expensive for most individuals (£165.00 and £145.00 respectively), and there is considerable overlap of author and subject (and occasionally of text, not even tightly scrambled by the w.p.m.'s paligraphy) between the books. Also, a lot of repetition within them, which could perhaps have been edited down more tightly in the Handbook format to give a shorter and more focused product; indeed one or two of the 29 chapters would not be greatly missed. Nonetheless, the Handbook is the more comprehensive offering, with extensive coverage of the whole range of motor and psychic aspects, and what is known of their neurobiology, genetics, epidemiology and treatment. This is an invaluable reference book, but too highly priced for private purchase.

SUSAN HALL


Most people with epilepsy experience the onset in childhood or adolescence. This welcome book of 37 chapters is written by 43 authors from the USA, and Michael Trimble is the first major newcomer of the nineties.

Growth in knowledge of pathophysiology is reviewed: brain structure, neural interconnections, ion channels, membranes and neurotransmitters, peptides and psychological consequences of seizures. Congratulations are due to Dreifuss for a readable chapter on classification and to Fransky for a stimulating clinical chapter on non-epileptic paroxysmal disorders. The accounts of epidemiology, neurophysiological investigation and neuroimaging are compact although the last is sparsely illustrated. Good descriptions of many of the major epileptic syndromes conclude the first half.

Management is discussed in terms of drug therapy rather than educational care. There are differences between drugs used in the USA and in Europe. A chapter on new drugs is interesting. Some are not yet used in Europe.

Though there are chapters on epilepsy and IQ and on behavioural and cognitive aspects, there is little sense of the young person's experience of epilepsy, the importance of the impact on the family or the high frequency of associated disabilities. Nonetheless, the book is clear, scholarly and well referenced.

NIALL QUINN


This multi-author book is about pseudo-seizures, other types of paroxysmal events such as syncope and night terrors, for example, receiving only passing reference. Many chapter authors begin by suggesting that between 8% and 20% of those referred to special epilepsy units have non-epileptic seizures. However, a point that is not generally recognised in the book is the number of centres that such patients tend to visit, which will inflate the impression of the frequency of such conditions.

Some authors attempt to identify clinical criteria that might be useful in distinguishing true epileptic and pseudo-seizures from each other, most acknowledge the substantial degree of behavioural overlap. For example, seizures originating in the frontal lobe or supplementary motor area may have

The expression aboutant a sorte de tour de Babel is groundless: the text covers a wide field in a consistently lucid style.

The book is divided into three parts. The first addresses fundamental aspects of the histology, immunology, biochemistry and physiology of peripheral nerves; the basic pathological mechanisms underlying demyelination and degeneration; the analysis of biopsied nerves, including details of morphometric analysis and the examination of teased fibres. Introductory chapters are necessary, however, in places treatment of a topic is perhaps too superficial; e.g. the omission of reference to NANC nerves in the section on the autonomic system is surprising.

The second part is dedicated to detailed descriptions of neuropathies, with emphasis on their classification, pathophysiology, clinical characteristics and treatment.

Frequent use of tables is a helpful feature of the text. There are nineteen major chapters, each dealing with a specific group or type of neuropathy.

The third part contains chapters on neuropathies in young children and in old age; dysautonomic polyneuropathies; hypertrophic neuropathies; neuropathies associated with vasculitides and with carcinomas. The book closes with neuropathies in domestic animals.

The bibliography, almost exclusively in English, is comprehensive up to 1990, but there are few references beyond this date. The sparing use of photomicrographs is unfortunate. Moreover, those that are included are uniformly pale and rarely labelled. Some of the electron micrographs can only be appreciated using a magnifying glass and in a good light! The paucity of illustrations is a serious deficit in what is otherwise a most useful hand book.

105.1136/jnnp.56.10.1139-d on 1 October 1993. Downloaded from http://jnnp.bmj.com/ on June 13, 2021 by guest. Protected by copyright.
sufficiently bizarre characteristics to suggest a diagnosis of pseudoseizure, until further investigation proves the truly epileptic nature of the attacks. Although tonic-clonic and temporal lobe seizures both elevate serum prolactin levels, the same is not necessarily true of extra-temporal attacks. Most important is to think of the diagnosis in the first place. All too often true epilepsy and what are apparently pseudoseizures exist side by side. The gold standard for diagnosis remains video recordings of the attacks with concurrent cerebral electroencephalographic recording. Just how far investigation should go is perhaps a matter of opinion, but one chapter describes long-term subdural recording in twelve patients thought to have pseudoseizures, of whom reversibility of anoxic difficulty remained, and of these half were found to have true epileptic attacks.

The length but not the value of the book is increased by chapters attempting to analyse the psychological or psychiatric background on which pseudoseizures arise. It is probably too artificial (although neither the editors nor the chapter authors recognize this point) to attempt to impose any common psychodynamic theory upon what is likely just to be a final common path of showing distress. It should be more widely recognized that behaviours which simulate the apparent organic disease reflect the current expectations of the health professionals of the time. The reason that we do not now see the gross hysterical manifestations described by Charcot is that such behaviour is no longer reinforced by medical attention. Perhaps pseudoseizures will follow the same path to near-extinction.

ANTHONY HOPKINS

**Handbook of Cerebrovascular Disease**

The authors (46 in total with 10 from Europe) were “invited to update...several (30) stroke-related topics” and the book is a book of some 728 pages which is aimed at “physicians in training and physicians in practice”. In UK terms I would judge it to be at the level of post-Membership physicians. Although a dwindling number of nihilists continue to believe that nothing much changes in the field of cerebrovascular medicine, evidence of the impact of recent clinical trials and technological innovation is found throughout the book. As is almost universal the delay between writing and publication means that there will always be a few areas which already seem rather dated. Having said that, many of the chapters provide excellent background reference lists up to 1991/1992 and I have already found it a useful book to dip into on several occasions.

The choice of subjects is predictable—they are the ones that usually feature as plenary lectures at most cerebrovascular conferences—young stroke, migraine, the heath deck stroke, cardiac surgery, acute management and secondary prevention etc. plus a smattering of “cutting edge” topics such as fibrinolysis, neuro-protection and interventional radiology. The emphasis is certainly on diagnosis and management in the first few weeks with longer term rehabilitative issues being dealt with in the last 10% of the book. This is another neglected in favour of the technological ones—in particular I would pick out the excellent chapters on the Clinical Diagnosis of TIA and Medical Management of Subarachnoid Haemorrhage. The “update” format has allowed some authors to take an overview of their subject and attempt to explain the relevance of sometimes conflicting research results to everyday practice. I would single out the chapter on haemato logical abnormalities in stroke as an excellent example.

One of the most striking (and positive) things about this book is the increasing awareness amongst those in the field of the need for practice to be shaped by high quality clinical trials rather than personal anecdote. Areas where such information is sadly lacking (such as the place of intracerebral haematoma evacuation) are now beginning to stick out like sore thumbs. The price is likely to dictate that this book will be found on departmental library shelves rather than in personal collections.

JOHN RAMFORD


With the exception of the problems of syncope and postural hypotension associated with Parkinsonian syndromes, the problems of autonomic dysfunction do not generally figure large in the clinical practice of most neurologists in the UK. All the more reason perhaps to have to hand a substantial work of reference and scholarship such as this book, edited by an acknowledged world authority on such disorders. The authorship is chiefly North American, with some notable contributions from Europe and Scandinavia, most of the authors being practising clinicians rather than basic scientists.

The book surveys in detail available autonomic function tests, with particular emphasis on non-invasive testing, and provides an analysis of the value and limitations of such tests together with an understanding of their basic mechanisms. It is divided into sections on the scientific basis, (anatomy and physiology of the autonomic nervous system), clinical and laboratory evaluation of autonomic function, and a final section on clinical dysautonomias and disorders involving autonomic abnormalities. Each chapter is prefaced by a summary of key “take home” messages which can be read quickly, as a basis for background for understanding the graphs and diagrams in each chapter. Unfortunately, no section on embryological development, which could help in understanding the organisation of ANS is included. The diagrams are clear and comprehensive.

The complex cybernetics of urinary bladder regulation are well described by Bradley, who also describes the neural control of human sexual function and makes the important medicolegal point that intrinsinc brain lesions very rarely affect potency.

The second section of the book dealing with clinical evaluation of the autonomic nervous system emphasises the importance of pattern recognition in diagnosis.

The final section deals with specific diseases causing autonomic dysfunction. A provocative chapter by Rahimowicz examines the evidence that diabetic neuropathy, and associated autonomic neuropathy, may have an auto-immune pathogenesis. Another thought provoking chapter by Ochoa and Verdugo takes a severe doubt on the concept that reflex sympathetic dystrophy is mediated by the sympathetic nervous system, and concludes that the traditional treatment of the syndrome by chemical or surgical sympathectomy is unfounded.

The section by Bannister on multiple system atrophy and pure autonomic failure is of exemplary clarity and provides useful therapeutic suggestions. Curiously, the chapter outlining the treatment of postural hypotension, relevant to this section is placed close to the end of the book.

In syncope even after extensive examination there are still cases where “the cause is never found” due to patient and family factors. In this group of the syncope families the possibility of organ donation should be entertained as a last resort.

R LANE


This book provides a readable, comprehensive, and well referenced review of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. It is edited from Harvard and Boston. Most of the 22 contributors are from North America with sections on virology and muscle histology from Europe. The chapter on pathophysiology is the longest. It concludes that much of the psychiatric disorder is secondary while pointing out the lack of reports of premonitory and admitting the enormous importance of psychological factors. The Essex workers report mitochondrial aggregations in muscle and postulate that this may explain fatigue. This highlights the central problem in relation to the medical model: alterations in immune responses, electromyographic, PET and histological changes found in a proportion of the patients may have little relationship to the dominant symptom.

The history and epidemiology are well covered and mechanisms of fatigue are discussed. Related conditions such as Lyme disease are described.

In a final chapter the editors summarise the findings and speculate on pathogenesis. The list of drugs known to cause fatigue covers more than three pages. The laboratory tests recommended are mainly concerned with exclusion of related diseases by serological tests.

Little emerges about management apart from treatment of secondary depression. Additional immune and immune system tests are not ever included in any of the reviews. The evidence from unsolicited controlled trials but other treatments such as unsaturated fatty acids require further study.

This critical account of investigations