

with extensive documentation gives a clear picture of the present situation.

BRYAN ASHWORTH

**The Nervous System: Its Function and Its Interaction with the World.** By LLOYD D PARTRIDGE and L DONALD PARTRIDGE. (Pp 579 Illustrated; Price: £58.50 Cloth; £34.95 Paper). 1993. London, The MIT Press. ISBN 0-262-16134-6 (hc), 0-262-66079-2 (pbk).

This is a lengthy textbook of basic Neurophysiology extending over 17 chapters. There are large areas that are not covered. For example, there are just two pages on the cerebellum, hence a basic grounding in neurophysiology would be essential. Further, the construction of the book is quite unusual. Brief statements are made, followed by an amplified section and then various problems of differing complexity are posed. Although help for the more taxing problems is available, answers are not always provided. I well recall being tormented by this approach as a BSc physiology student. Whilst this method is guaranteed to exercise one's thought processes, the lack of a solution (if there is one) is unsatisfactory. Hence this book would be unsuitable for medical undergraduates. It would be appropriate for the more advanced graduate and of particular usefulness for teachers of Neurophysiology. For the busy Clinical Neurologist, other sources of reference would be more suitable.

CH HAWKES

**Brain Tumors: Pathology and its Biological Correlates.** By DAVID E SCHIFFER. (Pp 595 Illustrated; Price DM 298.00). 1993. Heidelberg, Springer-Verlag. ISBN 3-540-55864-0.

This useful addition to the limited range of texts aims to provide neurologists, neurosurgeons and neuro-oncologists with 'a broad knowledge base on the pathology of brain tumours'. It is a book which also might appeal to neuropathologists and research scientists. At just under 600 pages it is a little over half the size of 'Russell and Rubinstein' and inevitably it is less comprehensive particularly concerning diagnostic histopathology. Where it particularly scores is in the introductory chapters (100 pages) on tumour biology, epidemiology etc. which give an excellent overview. The author's chapter on classification is an interesting historical review which describes the evolution of taxonomic activity.

The next 300 pages are devoted to an account of brain tumour pathology based on the recent WHO classification. Although he espouses this, he clearly exercises the right to open-mindedness: 'In principle, its suggestions are followed in the present book'. Some chapters are too brief, eg the macroscopic description of gliomatosis cerebri contains the contradictory statement 'the brain is slightly deformed but maintains its normal shape'. One knows what he means but it isn't what he says. The discussion of immunohistological findings in these chapters is more up to date than the equivalent sections of Russell and Rubenstein. These chapters usually give comprehensive

reviews of controversial areas and resist the temptation to provide a definitive interpretation. As a result the book is frequently stimulating and would be of great value as an introduction to many unresolved problems in human neurooncology. It is the sort of book you would give to a postgraduate student at the start of a research project to get them into the subject. It is well referenced up to 1991 (3142 in total), however the index is limited.

Priced at DM298 (roughly £120) it seems destined to be predominantly an institutional purchase.

P INCE

**Drug-Induced Movement Disorders.** Edited by AE LANG and WM J WEINER. (Pp 395; Price \$70.00). 1992. New York, Futura Publishing Co. ISBN 0-87993-525-1.

Any new publication in this field will have to justify its position and I am satisfied that this one can. This multi-author volume covers the important field of drug-induced movement disorders in twelve well organised chapters.

The topics covered include acute dystonia, drug induced parkinsonism, acute akathisia, tardive dyskinesias, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, anti-depressants and movement disorders, movement disorders in psychiatric patients, levodopa induced dyskinesia, dopaminergic drugs. In addition there is a final and useful chapter by Anthony Lang covering drugs that may perhaps not be commonly recognised as inducing abnormal movements.

The individual chapters are consistent in style, easy to read, clearly laid out, well referenced and edited. Attention has been paid throughout to definitions. This will make this volume appealing to non-movement disorder specialists who are increasingly being required to assess patients suffering from the side effects of drugs acting on the CNS. Contemporary concepts of the likely underlying mechanisms of drug effect in the production of dyskinesias and their putative relationship to movement disorders in general are emphasized. This volume makes the strong point that in any patient with movement disorder the possibility of a drug effect (or side effect) must always be considered.

This work clearly fills a gap in contemporary publications. At the US price of \$70 I would consider it good value.

LJ FINDLEY

**Practical Electrophysiological Methods. (A Guide for In Vitro Studies in Vertebrate Neurobiology).** Edited by H KETTENMANN and R GRANTYN. (Pp 449; Price: \$64.95). 1992. Somerset, NJ, USA, Wiley-Liss. ISBN 0-471-56200-9.

This fascinating book is in essence a comprehensive manual on the methodology of in vitro electrophysiological studies. The editors have canvassed widely for experts in this increasingly complex field and have presented an up to date and in depth description.

The book is divided into nine sections. The first two sections deal with setting up experimental preparations with a particular

emphasis upon brain. Of equal importance, there is also a chapter on recording from *Xenopus oocytes* which is highly relevant due to the ease of introducing mRNA derived components into this cell type.

Subsequent sections approach the problems of stimulation and perfusion techniques, electrode manufacture and the technology necessary for recording the signals. A complete section is given to the methodology of recording from both intra- and extracellular sites and provides a detailed presentation of one of the most powerful electrophysiological techniques that has been developed in modern times, namely patch clamping, permitting the study of individual ion selective channels.

Section 7 examines the analysis of reflex pathways using paired recording sites, transmitter release and synaptic transmission, ion selective electrodes and imaging calcium transients. The final part deals with aspects of data recording and there is also a chapter titled 'Recording on a small budget', a somewhat pertinent factor these days.

In summary, this book is of considerable interest to the experimental neurophysiologist and is clinically germane if only to give an insight into the investigation of the fundamental processes upon which the central nervous system is based.

IS SCHOFIELD

**Principles of Neurology/5th Edition.** By RAYMOND D ADAMS and MAURICE VICTOR. (Pp 1394 Illustrated; Price: £54.00). Maidenhead, McGraw-Hill Book Company Europe, 1993. ISBN 0-07-000341-6.

Any new comprehensive neurological text has to compete with the two volume works by Asbury *et al*, and with Swash and Oxbury. Moreover the place of the large text is brought into question by the vast array of CD material and the add-on series of texts and reviews. The advantage of a book is accessibility, but size and weight limit portability; the advantages of contemporary add-on reviews and CD are their being more up to date, and containing more information.

In recent years only Brain and Walton, and Merritt have beaten Victor and Adams' record of five editions since 1977. How does the fifth match up?

The basic arrangement of two column text, small numbers of references and simple line diagrams and radiographs is excellent and unchanged. The emphasis is on an understanding of pathogenesis organised from symptomatology and pathology, avoiding the tedious routine of systematic survey by region and disease. The only snag is repetition and irritating cross-referencing between the general sections and the specific syndromes.

Although some aspects of therapeutics feel a little dated, there is much new material including MRI, genetics, developmental and hereditary metabolic disease, psychiatry, and immunology, all well digested and most clearly presented in consumable nuggets. Such mastery of a huge subject by two authors of vast experience is remarkable. The scrutiny of many sections by other experts must have helped a great deal, and is briefly acknowledged. If one can command such counsel, and maintain the one or two author format, the resulting text