spinal injuries is notable for informative chapters on the pathology and conservative treatment of this distressing condition. Some aspects of spinal surgery remain obscure or puzzling. That enlightenment is not to be found in these excellent volumes about the role of surgery in common spinal pain, or of decompression in spinal cord injury, must mean that no answer is available.

The work is well illustrated and, if one can ignore the frequency with which one is tripped up in one's progress through the text by the politically correct "his or hers", well written. It should prove invaluable to trainees and practitioners in the specialties at which it is principally aimed.

TT KING

Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy (Contemporary Issues in Neurological Surgery Series) Edited by R L SAUNDERS and P M BERNINI (Pp 219 Illustrated; Price: £49.50) 1992. Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications. ISBN 0 86542 193 5.

This book deals with all aspects of cervical spondylotic myelopathy and describes the various surgical treatments available. The main uncertainty about the correct treatment of spondylotic myelopathy stems from lack of information about the natural history of untreated or conservatively treated disease. It can also be difficult to interpret correctly the results of conservative treatment and compare them with patients treated surgically.

The chapter on anatomy deals mainly with the bone, ligament, and disc structures but relatively little attention is given to the blood supply of the cervical cord. It is suggested that the main supply is from the anterior and posterior spinal arteries but as Abdullah and Bowden showed the main supply is from the radicular arteries. Damage to these vessels, the distribution of which is inconstant, may be one reason why the results of surgery are less good than had been anticipated.

The chapter on pathophysiology describes the main factors causing cord compression. These are a congenital narrowing of the antero-posterior diameter of the spinal canal, the presence of spondylotic bosses or bars, infolding of the ligamentum flavum and instability or hypermobility of the cervical spine secondary to disc degeneration. Cord compression is likely to occur if the antero-posterior diameter of the cord is less than 11 millimetres. The chapter on neurology gives a good review of the literature and of the symptoms and physical signs which may occur. The chapter on imaging details the various techniques and is well illustrated.

Ossification of the posterior longitudinal ligament is covered in Chapter 14. It is described as a benign progressive hyperplasia and calcification of the longitudinal intervertebral ligament and has an incidence of 2% in Japan and 0.7% in adults in the USA. When marked, especially if there is a congenital narrowing of the AP diameter of the spinal canal, this may cause cord compression. Whether this is a separate entity or part of the generalised spondylotic process is difficult to say.

Treatment may be conservative or surgical. Where there is instability the authors recommend stabilization and if there are

signs of increasing cord compression, decompression. Anterior stabilization with decompression is in most cases preferred to posterior decompression. Any surgical interference may cause complications partly be due to the fact that damage has been caused to the vascular supply. Operations on the cervical spine are a major undertaking and the complications include acute myelopathic worsening and spinal destabilization.

This is an interesting book which deals with all aspects of cervical spondylotic myelopathy and should be read by all those interested in the subject.

MARCIA WILKINSON

The Dementias: Diagnosis & Management Edited by MYRON F WEINER (Pp 350; Price £47.95) 1991. London, The Eurospan Group. ISBN 0 88148 297 4.

This is a multi-author book from the University of Texas and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York. The first quarter of the book deals with the identification, psychodynamics, investigation and differential diagnosis of dementia. The diagnosis of dementia defers reverentially to the lists of symptoms included in the DSM-III-R manual of the American Psychiatric Association.

The section on investigation is rather heavily weighted toward brain imaging and the author's personal experience of single photon emission tomography accounts for almost half the chapter. Neuropsychological assessment is surprisingly discussed separately in the management section of the book. The chapter on differential diagnosis attempts to describe the clinical features and investigations of a wide range of diseases manifesting as dementia. As a result common causes of dementia are sometimes dealt with summarily, undue weight being given to rare disorders. There is no mention of cortical Lewy bodies in the section on Parkinson's disease, to which less space is devoted than to the differential diagnosis of adult onset leukodystrophy.

The management of dementia forms the middle chapters and consists of good practical advice on psychological and behavioural management and a thorough coverage of these problems which may be helped by drugs. Some tips have a strong North American flavour and techniques are described to aid the safe removal of a patient's supply of firearms. The book ends with a 43 page appendix containing several questionnaires and assessment scales and nearly 40 pages of references.

The text is more likely to appeal to psychiatrists than to neurologists.

D NEARY

Movement Disorders in Neurology and Neuropsychiatry. Edited by AB JOSEPH and RR YOUNG. (Pp 762; Price £95.00). 1992. Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. ISBN 0-86542-146-3.

Movement disorders are one of the most intriguing of the conventional but artificial bridges which span neurology and psychiatry. The influence of the mind in every organic disturbance, the motor retardation

of depression and dementia and the tics and stereotypes of schizophrenia are familiar reminders. Marsden and Fahn, Shah and Donald, and others have provided texts in the past, and so this big, largely American, volume comprising 95 chapters in 738 pages promises a comprehensive modern survey.

Drug induced disorders, dementia and neurodegenerative disorders, mood and movement, and a range of essays on tics, myoclonus, startle, ballismus, chorea, tremors and dystonias, and sleep disturbances are the main headings. The result is a very mixed bag both in content and quality. Many chapters are only 3 or 4 pages long, reducing the depth of analysis and description sought by the reader. Other sections (e.g. those on tardive dyskinesia) are unbearably repetitive. It leaves the impression that the editors sketched out titles for every possible variant and context of movement disorder, told the contributors to get on with it, but failed to eliminate the overlaps or to edit the final product. This said, there are some fascinating and authoritative essays which will enlighten and entertain. Rabbit syndrome, pathologic laughter and crying, startle epilepsy, autism, bruxism, the alien hand, and mirror movements are but a few of these engaging accounts; but are these really to be classified as movement disorders?

There is much of value in this book, but Joseph and Young have been too ambitious in trying to be all embracing, and too modest in the exercise of editorial prerogative.

JMS PEARCE

Tourette Syndrome: Genetics, Neurobiology & Treatment (Advances in Neurology, Vol. 58). Edited by T N CHASE, A J FRIEDHOFF, D J COHEN. (Pp 377; Price \$144.00). 1992. New York, Raven Press. ISBN 0-88167-922-4.

This is the second volume in the "Advances in Neurology" series to address the subject of Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome—now abbreviated to "Tourette Syndrome". Volume 35 in 1982 has now been updated by a decade in a comprehensive volume with contributions detailing progress in the understanding of this condition and its associated behavioural and psychiatric phenomena.

There are no less than 112 authors contributing to a volume of 362 pages and there is much repetition and overlap between contributions. But as the neurochemical and neuropharmacological discoveries in Parkinson's Disease in the 1960's profoundly changed the thinking about "degenerative" neurological disorders, so discoveries in Tourette syndrome are changing our thinking about behavioural neuropsychiatry and neurogenetics. This is therefore an important review of a condition with wide clinical and basic science interest.

The natural history of the disease and its clinical manifestations are described. A number of suggestions are made concerning pathogenesis with an interesting section on genetics. And the pharmacotherapy of tics, obsessive-compulsive disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity syndrome are reviewed.

This volume is an important marker of the current status of Tourette Syndrome research, diagnosis and management. It