in Crisis, children and the elderly. The sec-
tion outlines a number of special areas. Legal Issues, Domestic
Violence, Child Abuse, Rape, Home-
lessness and the patient with mental retar-
dation. These chapters include advice about the
implications of these areas; extremely valuable but of limited applica-
tion as it refers exclusively to US Law, but a model of what could be provided for other
nationalities. The section dealing with ex-
plcitly psychiatric emergencies is a mere
80 pages long; less than a quarter of the
whole book, and this is what is so refresh-
ing. True psychiatric emergencies are rela-
tively rare but situations in which distressed
people come to casualty are common, and
this book makes no bones about the value of
particular expertise in being able to deal
with them optimally.

The book also includes a section about
medical-psychiatric emergencies and an
invaluable short pharmacopoeia covering
overdoses and dose equivalents of
common psychotropic agents. Again this
section betrays its country of origin but oth-
erwise loses nothing.

My only significant criticism of this pub-
llication besides the inescapable specificity of its
legal advice is its presentation. This is a
reference book for the casualty department,
and as such should be robustly presented so
that it can survive repeated thumbing by
repeated shifts of casualty officers. In its
present flimsy ring-bound form a single
book copy would barely survive a busy Friday
night, although its advice would be inval-
uable.

HUGH MIDDLETON

Cerebrospinal Fluid in Neurology and
Psychiatry. Edited by H McCANN and
J BIANCHINI. Published by Chapman and
Hall, London 1994. (Pp 322; £45.00.)
ISBN 0-412-53570

It is just over 100 years since Quinke first
introduced lumbar puncture for the mea-
surement of CSF pressure, cell count, pro-
tein and glucose, and for many physicians
there has been little advancement in examina-
tion of the "animal spirit". Since there are
already a number of well established texts
on cerebrospinal fluid, the authors' inten-
tion is to focus on the neurochemistry of
CSF and on potential new diagnostic
markers.

The text covers the anatomy, physiology and
normal constituents of CSF, the find-
ings in a selection of neurological and
psychiatric diseases and this is followed by
an exuberance of references.

Contrary to their stated intentions, the
authors have striven for comprehensiveness,
and appear to have paid the price in superfi-
ciality and lack of incisiveness. Benign
infracranial hypertension for example is dis-
cussed in under two pages, but without a
discussion of CSF pressure in the morbidly
obese subject, which might lead to confu-
sion. Lactate levels are mentioned in pass-
aging as being raised in Kears Sayre
syndrome but there is no mention of the
related mitochondrial cytopathies and fatty acid oxidative pathol-
gies, nor of the diagnostic utility of feeding,
fasting or exercise in these conditions. Abnormalities of ammonia are not dis-
cussed.

The book's strength lies in its own
theoretical discussion of the neurochemical
findings in a limited range of neurogen-
erative and psychiatric diseases, little of which
is of practical benefit to the clinician on the
wards who might therefore be advised to use
one of the established texts for the man-
gement of their patients. In the search for
data on the neurochemistry on neuropsychi-
tric and neurodegenerative diseases, this
text would be a good place to start.

JON SUSSMAN

Snoring and Sleep Apnoea—Personal
and Family Guide to Diagnosis and
Treatment. Edited by RALPH A FASCUALY
MD and SALLY WARREN SOEST. Published by

Snoring used to be considered to be a joke
but recently many snorers have become
worried that they may have a potentially
dangerous disorder since snoring is now
known to be a symptom of obstructive sleep
apnoea and this condition is associated with
an increased risk of hypertension, strokes,
microcardiac infarctions and prematu-
are death. This book is aimed at these
snorers and their families. It is written by
a Doctor who runs a Sleep Disorders Centre
and a partner of a patient with sleep
apnoea. This combination has produced a
comprehensive overview of snoring and
sleep apnoea which is written in an infor-
mal style. Most of the opinions are well bal-
anced although some statements such as
that 20 million people in the USA have sleep
apnoea and that two to three thou-
sand of these die suddenly each year at
night because of it are contentious.

The book has been written for an
American audience but much of it is applic-
able to the United Kingdom except the last
chapters on funding and how to choose your
Sleep Centre and Sleep Specialist. The sections
on surgical treatment and nasal
continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)
treatment are particularly useful. They
enable the patient to feel their way through
what can be a confusing subject and the
authors have quite rightly put forward the
advantages and disadvantages of each treat-
ment for each of the different clinical situa-
tions without favouring any one technique
overall. The book does not contain many
illustrations but those that are included are
clear and helpful. Many Doctors and other
Health Care workers as well as snorers and
those with sleep apnoea will obtain a better
understanding of these disorders and their
management from reading this book.

JOHN SHENEERSON

Alzheimer Disease. Editors: ROBERT D
TERRY, ROBERT TAYMAN, KATHERINE L
BICK. Publishers: Raven Press, New York
0-7817-0081-7.

With the shelves of libraries and booksellers
aliens beginning to groan under the strain of
texts relating to Alzheimer's disease and
other causes of dementia the arrival of a fur-
ther weighty contribution might seemingly
be neither warranted nor welcome. Such a
view would however be premature. This
volume stands out as a shining example of
readability and is a fitting testimony to the
past three decades of research effort in this
field. It follows on from an earlier literary
landmark of the editors published by Raven
Press some 15 years ago. Although the 457
pages, divided into 28 chapters are pro-
duced by a multiplicity of authors, almost
entirely from North America, the style is
uniform and the emphasis even. The text is
clearly understandable to the expert and
novice alike, is informative and most impor-
tantly in this rapidly moving field, up to
date. Indeed the inclusion of the year's "big
story" concerning Apolipoprotein E4, by
Katzman himself, is witness to this. The full
gamut of disease history, clinical expres-
sion, pathology, biochemistry and molecular
genetics is covered and each chapter is well
written and comprehensive. My one major
complaint would be the almost complete
lack of consideration of the role glial cells
might play in either producing or promoting the
disease process. Such an omission is particu-
larly notable given the recent atten-
tion to the possible action of astrocytes and
microglial cells as "inflammatory media-
tors" in an acute phase response and the
possibility of treatment with anti-inflamma-
tory agents. Minor quibbles would include
more concern for the role of complement
factors and proteoglycans in plaque forma-
tion and the ways in which prion disease
and Down's syndrome might help in clarify-
ing the process of amyloidosis and plaque
formation. A further irritation is the
Transatlantic habit of relegating nouns to
adjectives, poor Alois Alzheimer following
along a path already well beaten by Arnold
Pick and John Langdon Hayden Down.
Alzheimer's disease was a good enough
eponym for Kraepelin in 1910; I see no
need to abbreviate in 1994. Indeed the
reverse might be justified, given the aeti-
ological heterogeneity of the disorder, pro-
ducing the title "Alzheimer's disease".

Nonetheless, it gives me pleasure to re-
commend this book to all interested in
the field of dementia research. The price at
$175.50 is no snip though the quality of its
presentation and content should ensure a
sufficiently long shelf-life.

DMA MANN

CORRECTION

Leigh PN, Ray-Chaudhuri K. Motor neuron
disease. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 1994;57:
886–96 (neurological management).

In the second paragraph of the second
column, p. 890*, median survival being about
22 months should read "median survival being
about 22 months."