

damage which is so clearly presented in other textbooks, for example Jennett and Teasdale. Some chapters, at the other extreme, are essentially anecdotal. The author of a chapter on drug treatment states that: "only in the past year have attempts been made to set the actual practice of neuropharmacology into a modern theoretical framework, presented in a comprehensive format for clinicians who work with TBI patients", citing his own paper to support this statement. There follows a distinctly idiosyncratic, clinically based account in which psychostimulants are said to be "extremely useful", buspirone to be the treatment of choice in akathisia and amantadine in agitation.

Neuropsychological concepts are used loosely and sometimes misleadingly, for example in repeated references to procedural learning in various chapters. There is a useful chapter on family adjustment following head injury, and an interesting attempt, in another chapter, to equate the concept of handicap with community integration. However, this book fails to instantiate the clear, goal-directed, multi-disciplinary approach which it should be advocating in the rehabilitation process. One gets little idea of what actually goes on in a team meeting or in therapy. Rehabilitation is a difficult subject to write about.

CHRIS WARD

The Physiological Basis of Rehabilitation Medicine (Second Edition). Editors: JOHN A DOWNEY, STANLEY J MYERS, ERWIN G GONZALEZ, JAMES S LIEBERMAN. Publisher: Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford 1994. (Pp 766 £95.00). ISBN 1-56372-080-9.

This book, which had its first edition in 1971, covers many of the aspects of normal physiology which are relevant in rehabilitation medicine. By and large the chapters are authoritative, well-presented and reasonably up-to-date. Those with prior training in neurology will find the non-neurological sections most useful and vice-versa.

There is an implicit assumption that clinical practice must always be based on an understanding of normal structure and function. The traditional view is sometimes a handicap in a textbook of this sort, as it sometimes is in undergraduate medical education. For example, there is no clearly defined topic in normal function which relates to epilepsy, perhaps the reason the topic fails to get a mention in the index. Conversely, normal structure and function sometimes throw little light on pathophysiology; for example, clinicians will not learn much of practical value from the section on the structure of the basal ganglia. The sections on pathophysiology in this book sometimes seem almost to be afterthoughts, introduced (as in many undergraduate textbooks) merely to leaven the dough of normal physiology. Muscle contractures and constipation are examples of topics which are of pragmatic importance, requiring a physiological explanation and meriting much more detailed treatment in the main text; neither is mentioned in the index. In future editions, many chapters would benefit from the clinical perspective which makes some of the chapters especially useful, for example the one on energy expenditure during ambulation.

The book would also benefit greater emphasis on pharmacological principles relevant to normal function and clinical practice.

Nevertheless this book is a convenient source of information which is otherwise not easily accessible to busy clinicians.

CHRIS WARD

Memory, Amnesia and the Hippocampal System. Author: NEAL J COHEN and HOWARD EICHENBAUM. Publisher: The MIT Press, London 1993. (Pp 330 £40.50). ISBN 0-262-03203-1.

This is definitely a book for the cognoscente of hippocampology. Even those with more than a passing interest in memory will find it relatively specialised and, in parts, hard going. The two authors are well known for their work in amnesia; Neal Cohen made significant contributions in the area of implicit memory (learning without awareness) in amnesic patients, while Howard Eichenbaum is well known for his work in animal learning. He has developed an important theoretical model of neuronal representation in the hippocampus. This book attempts to bring together the work relating to human amnesia unique with the animal research on learning and memory.

The central hypothesis developed in the book is that the hippocampus is critically placed for the processing and initial storage of unique time and/or space-specific memories, and furthermore that much of the data pertaining to human amnesia can be accommodated within the declarative-procedural dichotomy. This is not a particularly novel hypothesis, but it is developed in much greater length in this book than anywhere else. For neuropsychologists interested in memory and for particularly those fascinated by the role of the hippocampus, it is clearly an important book, although I could not recommend it for the general reader. The coverage of clinically important aspects of memory is particularly poor. For instance, autobiographical and other forms of remote memory get no mention, and there is extremely scanty reference to Alzheimer's disease which after all is by far the commonest cause of memory loss in clinical practice and involves the hippocampus.

JOHN HODGES

Paediatric Neurology, Principles and Practice, Second Edition. By KENNETH F SWAIMAN. Published by Mosby, St Louis, Missouri 1994. (Pp 1527). ISBN 0-8016-6695-3.

In his introduction Professor Swaiman bemoans his "inelastic fixation" on his subject. It has stood him in good stead. This two volume book contains 77 chapters of which he has contributed 22. His sections are well written, excellently illustrated, packed with useful tables, and although they are detailed, this is never at the expense of clarity. He has taken care to balance the material to include the commonplace as well as the rare.

The remaining chapters are the work of 52 authors, and this is the book's main failing. In parts an excess of detail makes it

hard to extract useful practical information. For example "Viral Diseases of the Nervous System" although huge, contained only a few lines on the treatment of Herpes simplex encephalitis. Elsewhere the fundamentals are thin: the chapter on absence seizures left me wondering what an absence seizure was! It is hard to maintain consistency in a multi-author book, but vital if it is to work.

I found this a difficult book to negotiate. It is divided into four sections "Clinical Evaluation", "Laboratory Evaluation", "Disease Characteristics and Categories", and "Pediatric Neurologic Diseases". The order of their contents defies logic.

The first two sections are clear enough (and mainly written by Swaiman). The third was I assume, designed as the equivalent of Victor and Adams' "Cardinal Manifestations of Neurologic Disease". But what is a chapter on "Oxidative Metabolism Disorders" doing in this section? Why is it separated from the chapter on Reyes syndrome by 900 pages? What sensible book can have the chapter on headache a volume away from the chapter on migraine? "Pediatric Neurologic diseases" starts with a huge section on the principles of Genetics—hardly a disease! "Normal Muscle" (a disease?) is followed by three unrelated chapters before getting round to muscle pathologies.

It is a shame that a book containing such a wealth of information should be so muddled in its presentation. Reorganised, I might have considered paying the £180 for it but as it is I shall plump for Aicardi at £95. And there's only one author!

REBECCA AYLWARD

SHORT NOTICES

Readers may be interested in: **Dopamine Receptors and Transporters. Pharmacology, Structure and Function.** Edited by Hyman b Niznik. (Pp 677 \$195.00.) Published by Marcel Dekker Inc, New York 1994. ISBN 0-8247-9158-4.

Schizophrenia and Related Syndromes. By P J McKenna. (Pp 417 £50.00.) Published by Oxford University Press, Oxford 1994. ISBN 0-19-261780-X (hbk).

Anticonvulsants in Psychiatry. Edited by Kjell Modigh, Ole Herman Robak and Per Vestergaard. (Pp 163 £26.50.) Published by Wrightson Biomedical Publishing Ltd, Petersfield 1994. ISBN 1-871816-25-4.

Human Cross-Sectional Anatomy. (Pocket atlas of body sections and CT images). By Harold Ellis, Bari Logan and Adrian Dixon. (Pp 180 £15.95.) Published by Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford 1994. ISBN 0-7506-2028.

Hunter's Diseases of Occupations: 8th Edition. Edited by PAB Raffle, PH Adams, PJ Baxter and WR Lee. (Pp 804 £145.00.) Published by Edward Arnold, London 1994. ISBN 0-340-55173-9.