seems naturally to open at the book review page. Clearly this is the most popular section of the journal and members turn to this section for entertainment and guidance on whether to spend our own (or the department's) money on buying a given book. This particular book was the result of a symposium on stroke prevention held in April 1992 and the text, whilst entertaining in places, is ageing rapidly. For example, the chapter on the role of anticoagulants in stroke prevention in patients with atrial fibrillation was written before the results of the European Atrial Fibrillation Trial came out. This study is the only one which addresses the issue of whether patients with a recent ischaemic stroke or a transient ischaemic attack in atrial fibrillation should be given anticoagulants or not. There is a brief chapter by Kaps on ultrasonic methods to detect emboli, but the area has seen an enormous amount of work published on this topic since 1992 and the chapter is not as useful as it might have been. The British consumer magazine "Which", in describing different products, puts a red star with "this month's best buy" beside it.

Verdict: Not this month's "best buy" (but the chapters on carotid endarterectomy and carotid angioplasty are good).

PETER SANDERCOCK

An Introduction to Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. Edited by: A BRUSA, P F PELOSO. Publisher: John Libbey CIC, Rome 1993. (Pp 125. £30.00.) ISBN 0-86196-443-8.

As a young neurologist in Genoa, Professor Brusa, the senior author of this monograph, became fascinated by the strange case of an elderly man affected with a progressive and apparently previously undescribed neurodegenerative disorder, which he published in *Revue Neurologique* in 1961. Brusa had scoured the available literature for comparable cases and when in 1963 the late Clifford Richardson reported the clinico-pathological findings of nine similar cases, Brusa's conviction that one was dealing with a discrete disease entity, were vindicated. Brusa has remained faithful to the cause and has diligently followed and contributed to the rapidly expanding literature on a disorder which is still considered by most neurologists to be a rarity, and which rivals motor neurone disease as one of the most distressing neurodegenerations encountered in clinical practice.

The authors of this slim monograph are right to state in their concluding remarks, that in its fully established form the disease first reported by Steele Richardson and Olszewski is one of the most distinctive and easily recognisable conditions in clinical practice. However, even when the presentation is classical encompassing all the cardinal features, occasional surprises may occur at postmortem. Furthermore, unusual and atypical clinical presentations are now increasingly recognised, in particular a malignant and relentlessly progressive bradykinetic syndrome, which responds poorly or not at all to L-Dopa. The pathognomonic severe supranuclear vertical palsy

is also frequently absent throughout the whole course of the illness and there is also now a greater recognition of the frequent occurrence of tonic inhibition of levator palpebrae (apraxia of eyelid opening), and cognitive dysfunction of frontal lobe type. Even at postmortem life has become more difficult as the histopathological abnormalities if taken in isolation and without clinical documentation, may at times be indistinguishable from post encephalitic Parkinson's syndrome and lytico-Bodig disease of Guam, even when ultra structural studies on the tangles are carried out.

This book has a superb bibliography of 800 references and I suspect that this will be the part of the monograph which is most useful to neurologists interested in the field. The chapters are at times almost telegrammatic and the book is really a collection of notes. For those interested in getting an overview of current research into Steele-Richardson-Olszewski disease, I would express a preference for either Litvan and Agid's book or that of Tolosa. Nevertheless, for those involved in research into this tragically incurable condition, Professor Brusa's book comes as a welcome additional contribution to the literature from a respected pioneer in the field.

ANDREW LEES

Intellectual Functions and the Brain—An Historical Perspective. By Hans J Markowitsch. (Pp 182 £78.00.) Published by Hogrefe and Huber, Kirkland, USA 1992. ISBN 0-88937-081-8.

Written by an eminent neuropsychologist, this review portrays the dawning between 1870 and 1939 of what is now known as neuropsychology. Given the author's interests, memory and frontal function are given greatest coverage.

The initial chapter relates studies linking brain morphology to intellectual capacity. Such studies are never far from the stench of eugenics. Spitzka's assertion in 1907 that "the brain of a first-class genius . . . is as far removed from that of the savage bushman as that of the latter from the brain of the nearest related ape" is sadly typical.

The path to unravel the mystery of the frontal lobes is well covered. The initial somewhat euphoric claims made for frontal lobe psychosurgery are reported, such as the politically incorrect "excellent adjustment as housewife". Some, however, will sympathise with the statement that psychosurgery is "an excellent technique for treatment of selected cases from private practice".

The bulk of the text concerns memory and its disorders, and is excellent. The focus is mainly on Korsakoff's syndrome, as the crucial role of medial temporal structures in memory was less appreciated at that time.

The persistent impression given by this book is that knowledge is constantly discovered, forgotten and rediscovered. Scoville's surprise in 1954 at bilateral amygdalohippocampal resection causing dense amnesia might have been lessened had he read Bechterew's 1900 report of amnesia due to bilateral hippocampal destruction. Even "false memories" were first described in 1887.

This is a definitive account of neuropsychological research in the chosen period. It is exhaustively referenced, but the lack of an index is a surprising failing. Although its price will dissuade all but the enthusiast, it is likely to prove popular with libraries for the history of medicine.

JOHN GREENE

The Neuropsychology of Mental Disorders. A Practical Guide. Edited by LEONARD F KOZIOL and CHRIS E STOUT. (Pp 326; \$64.75.) Published by Charles C Thomas, Illinois 1994. ISBN 0-398-05905-5.

This book claims to describe recent developments in the neurosciences as they apply to understanding the problems raised by mental disorder. The term "neuropsychology" in the title is misleading in that the subject matter lies at least as much in neuropsychiatry as neuropsychology, with some neurology and bits of neuroradiology thrown in for good measure. Following an initial chapter providing a Cook's tour of some aspects of neuropsychology, the majority of the chapters cover neuropsychological/neuropsychiatric aspects of such things as schizophrenia, mood disorders, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder and forensic psychiatry. These contributions all too often attempt to cover large and complex areas in relatively few pages with the result that the accounts are typically sketchy, sometimes selective in idiosyncratic ways and occasionally misleading. Despite the three words of the title: "A Practical Guide", the book is not strong on "practical advice" and some of the advice that is offered is positively erroneous. For example, "rare causes of Huntington's chorea include hyperthyroidism, use of birth control pills and pregnancy".

Despite the avowed aims, the relevance of the neurosciences to the understanding and management of mental disorders is not advanced by this offering which is clearly something that both personal bookshelves and hospital libraries can survive very well without.

E MILLER

Pediatric Neurosurgery. Third Edition. Edited by William Cheek, Arthur Marlin, David McLone, Donald Reigel, Marion Walker. (Pp 630, £146.00.) Published by W B Saunders Company, London 1994. ISBN 0-7216-3767-1.

The third edition of this popular volume, first published in 1982, has been compiled under the auspices of the Pediatric Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons. As such, it provides an entirely North American perspective to the diagnosis and treatment of a wide spectrum of diseases of the paediatric nervous system.

The book is divided into 51 chapters in seven sections, and deals with the normal embryology of the central nervous system and its associated developmental anomalies, the pathophysiology and treatment of hydrocephalus, trauma to the brain, spine and peripheral nerves, neoplasms, infections, vascular disease, and the application of newer technologies. The section on tumours in particular has been expanded and revised to include recent data on therapeutic regimens and prognosis.

The only disappointing aspect of this book is that dealing with "newer technologies". This covers epilepsy, the surgical treatment of spasticity, approaches to the skull base, stereotaxis, ventriculotomy, stereotactic radiosurgery, and some aspects of paediatric neuroanaesthesia. Predictably, some of the contributions are covered better in more specialised texts. Others, notably the chapter on spasticity, are written by proponents of a technique and do not discuss concerns that have been voiced by others less certain of its efficacy. The chapter on stereotaxis misses the mark completely, devoting pages to technology that has been available for years and only two sentences to truly new developments such as frameless stereotaxy. These however are minor criticisms of what is a beautiful volume, which is easy to read, well referenced, and contains many new concepts for the investigation and treatment of a wide variety of disorders. It is to be commended to neurosurgeons of all levels of experience who have an interest in diseases of the nervous system in childhood.

R MACFARLANE

Infectious Diseases of the Central Nervous System. Edited by KENNETH L TYLER and JOSEPH B MARTIN. Publisher: Waverly Europe Ltd, London, 1994. (Pp 379 £68.00.) ISBN 0-8036-8767.

This book sets out to summarise a number of selected key topics related to infections of the central nervous system. The first six chapters are devoted to viral infections, the next six to other agents and the final chapter is on anti-bacterial and anti-fungal therapy. The introduction stresses the importance of therapy which is available for many of the conditions covered by this short concise book.

Inevitably, when reviewing a book such as this dealing with a large number of, in some ways, unrelated conditions, one turns to a topic about which one has some knowledge and, unfortunately, the section on tuberculous meningitis is extremely disappointing. It is dealt with on 1½ pages out of 353. It is part of a chapter on chronic meningitis. There are nine references. Five of these are lumped to cover clinical manifestations which are said to include low grade fever, lassitude, depression, confusion, personality and behavioural changes. Of these five, one is a 1963 review article on

treatment and another is a chapter in a recent text book. Of the other four references, one concerning CSF findings is to a paper on central nervous system involvement in lupus erythematosus and the value of magnetic resonance imaging in that condition, the other on neurological manifestations of AIDS of 1987 vintage. There is not a single reference to the details of treatment and the problems that this may run into. INAH and rifampicin alone are recommended as treatment for nine months for TBM unless drug resistance is suspected or concurrent HIV infection is present when pyrazinamide and ethambutol should be added for the first two months of therapy. Steroids are briefly mentioned but there are no references as to if, when and why they should be used. Moderate doses for a limited period are recommended. There is no mention of tuberculomas, there is no mention of tuberculous radiculomyelitis. The references are very disappointing and can perhaps be improved by looking at the 1992 review article.

In contrast to the less than two pages on tuberculosis of the nervous system, neurosyphilis is allotted 22.

The rest of the book seems to be significantly better and includes interesting chapters on viral infections for which, unfortunately, there is little treatment and a very good one on immunology by Griffin. There is also, as one might expect, an excellent chapter on anti-bacterial and antifungal therapy by Bell and McGuinness.

This book will fulfil a role in helping doctors to manage at least some of the infections affecting the nervous system, as long as the references relating to other conditions are better than those dealing with tuberculosis.

R S KOCEN

Dementia. By A S HENDERSON. (Pp 62 \$15.30.) Published by World Health Organization Publications, Geneva 1994. ISBN 92-4-156164-5.

This book is a masterpiece of summary. It contains a preface and introduction which emphasise the importance of the topic globally. The section on diagnostic issues summarises the newer criteria introduced in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatry Association IV and the WHO ICD 10. The discussion of diagnostic issues in vascular dementia is disappointingly brief, but Lewy Body Dementia is mentioned at greater length despite its absence from ICD 10. Concerns related to the reclassification of cognitive disorders which are not dementias are raised. In methods of assessment the reader is introduced to different standardised interview packages with recognition of the difficulty of applying these across cultures. There are two comprehensive and large tables summarising incidence and prevalence studies of dementia—there being far fewer of the

former than the latter. Risk factors for the dementias are covered and most areas which have been investigated are mentioned, albeit in a summary form. The most recent genetic work—for examples, apoE status and Alzheimer's disease—has not been included.

The recommendations in the final section are commendable, although research allocations may not be sufficient to support such a comprehensive programme (particularly longitudinal studies of cognitive function in international settings). The book is well referenced and the ICD-10 criteria for dementia are given in full.

This is an excellent introduction for those wishing to understand the epidemiology of dementia and those wishing to have an overview of incidence and prevalence studies or for a description of the new criteria. It is not a source text, but is not designed to be such. It is very reasonable in price and should be recommended to all those embarking on studies in this field.

CAROL BRAYNE

Anesthesia and Neurosurgery, third edition. Edited by JAMES E COTTRELL and DAVID S SMITH. (Pp 798; £95.00.) Published by Mosby, St Louis 1994. ISBN 0-8016-6573-6.

This, the third edition of a well established and respected anaesthetic text book, is substantially larger than the second edition, having undergone a partial change in editorship and an increase in contributors from 44 to 56, with one British exception, all North American.

In comparison with the second edition, the book has undergone a marked change in both style and presentation of content. The cover is striking, some would say gaudy, the paper quality is not as good, but it has retained its clarity and readability, the latter having been commented upon by several junior anaesthetists. Each chapter is headed by a short summary outlining the contents; tables, flow charts and diagrams abound to great effect. The reproduction of X ray, CT and MRI scans is generally good. The chapters on basic science are particularly accurate in reflecting current knowledge. There are one or two typographical errors in the text, none of which impairs comprehension. Some would argue about the need to include the chapters covering neurosurgical practice, but they do help to encourage the necessary understanding of the pathophysiology required for the current management of neurosurgical anaesthesia.

At £95.00 the book may appear expensive to junior staff in training. However, the editors have, in general, done a very good job in marshalling their contributors to produce what must be considered the current standard text in anaesthesia for neurosurgery. Every department with pretensions to caring for neurosurgical patients should possess a copy.

PHILLIP MORRIS