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