surgeon, and in addition to the more mature neurosurgeon who will have less difficulty in interpreting the illustrations.

P KIRKPATRICK

The Human Brain: in photographs and diagrams. By J NOLTE and J B ANGEVINE. (Pp 192; Price: £31·00.) 1995. Mosby, St Louis, MO. ISBN 0-8016-8125-1.

I was once asked, whilst a research registrar, to teach some MRCPsych candidates neuroanatomy. This task I would liken to trying to enthuse a band of Mongolian trainee cattle herdsmen to learn the A to Z of London by heart. Having to learn maps of places one might never visit is a task that challenges anyone's enthusiasm for topography. However, trainee London taxi-drivers, by constantly visiting places aided by their "A to Z", quickly become familiar with the anatomy of London in order to pass their viva. In the same way many trainee neurologists realise how much nervous system anatomy they need to know some time after they have failed to learn it for the first time as students. So for anyone (MRCPsych candidates included) needing a useful Michelin map guide to the brain for their travels in the neurosciences . . . this is it, right down to a Michelin-style ring binding (as useful here as in the road maps in the car on holiday).

Here is a striking example of how to ease what the preface calls the "daunting task" of learning about the functional anatomy of the brain. The illustrations are a superb mixture of photographs (digitally retouched) of stained whole brain sections in many planes and quite beautiful diagrams and annotated photographs illustrating neuronal circuitry including the main neurotransmitter systems (the latter diagrams are not very widely available elsewhere). Therefore, although aimed at medical students, this book should be bought by neurological trainees (and/or their librarians) since it will prove invaluable. Anatomy teachers should hope that in the future for their students they can get access (on the Internet or on CD-ROM) to the Washington School of Medicine's computerised brain reconstruction images used in this book.

The main features of the brains' topography are demonstrated by successive computerised reconstructions starting with the brainstem-mesencephalon-diencephalon stalk upon which successive structures (ventricles, hippocampus, basal ganglia, etc), in different colours are superimposed. Later chapters then use the same reconstruction images to demonstrate the different planes from which sections are taken. Below each clean stained brain section labelling is provided on "ghosted" images of that section. At the end are well produced CT, MRI and angiogram photographs all clearly illustrating relevant anatomical watering holes. The venous anatomy is shown on venous-phase angiograms labelled even with the direction of blood flow!

If you need to know the anatomy of the brain, either to pass an exam, diagnose a patient's problem, or teach neuroanatomy, you will not regret the hole in your budget this book will make.

CHRIS ALLEN

Advances in Radiosurgery. Edited by C LINDQUIST, D KONDZIOLKA, and J S LOEFFLER. (Pp 124; Price: DM 150). Published by Springer Verlag, New York 1994.

This book is composed of a selection of papers from the proceedings of the 1st Congress of the International Stereotactic Radiosurgery Society, held in Stockholm in June 1993. A wide range of topics is covered but most papers give only the results of small series and an appraisal of current indications rather than any recent advances in radiosurgery as the cover title of the book might lead one to expect. However, of the less established indications, sufficient benefit has been shown for radiosurgery in the management of low grade glioma, the squamous cell type of craniopharyngioma, low flow corticocavernous fistulae, and some cases of focal epilepsy to justify its continued exploration in larger series.

In the long run this newly formed Society plans to meet every two years, so the published proceedings should continue to provide a useful update on the range and efficacy of stereotactic radiosurgery, which is still a relatively new technique.

DAVID FORSTER

Clinician's Guide to Neuropsychological Assessment. Edited by RODNEY D VANDERPLOEG. (Pp 307; Price £53.95). Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Hove 1994. ISBN 0-8058-1253-9.

Any neurologist, psychiatrist or even neurosurgeon buying this book will, I'm afraid, be sadly disappointed: the term "clinician" in the title applies to practising neuropsychologists, but even among the latter group, it is hard to think who would enjoy this rather turgid book. Instead of making accessible a fascinating and vibrant subject, it lives up to the warning issued in the first sentence of the introduction "neuropsychological assessment is a difficult and complicated process". This need not, I think, be the case.

Most of the book revolves around methodological issues of patient assessment. For instance, whether to use a set and standard test battery on their flexible approach; the problem of assessing pre morbid intelligence; the difficulty of assessing cognition in individuals of highly variable backgrounds.

The dominant trend in European neuropsychology, that is to say the application of cognitive models, derived from normal experimental psychology, to patterns of deficit in brain-injured subjects, is almost entirely neglected. Any naive reader of this book would be forgiven for total ignorance of the area which has undoubtedly revolutionised our understanding of human cognition and of brain structure-functional relationships.

JOHN R HODGES

Principles of Neurosurgery. Edited by SETTI S RENGACHARY and ROBERT H WILKINS. (£150.00). Published by Wolfe, London 1994. ISBN 1-56375-022-8.

This book, edited by the authors of the best known and most definitive neurosurgical textbook, sets out to provide a comprehensive but not encyclopaedic overview of clinical neurosurgery. The book achieves its aim in 51 chapters and inevitably, in a multi-author text, some are better than others. In the preface the authors offer the reader "extraordinary visual appeal" and I was indeed impressed by the illustrations. There are many excellent radiological images, photographs, drawings, tables and algorithms. The layout is attractive and invites the reader to dip in. The introductory chapter, which covers the historical development of neurological surgery, sets the tone and is beautifully illustrated.

There is a good mix of basic science and clinical material, so necessary for the successful practice of this discipline. Important allied areas are also covered with good chapters on the assessment of pituitary function, radiotherapy and chemotherapy of the CNS. The text is easy to follow, well structured and subdivided logically. Referencing is full but inevitably, in a textbook of this size, somewhat dated.

The authors have set out to provide an introduction to neurosurgery for medical students and junior house officers. I do not think the book will find much of a market on this side of the Atlantic in these groups. However, as an introductory text for those entering higher surgical training in neurosurgery this book is likely to be popular. I would certainly recommend all departmental libraries to buy a copy for their trainees but individuals may find £150 too high a price to pay. Those studying for the intercollegiate fellowship will find that the text falls short on detail and also in the appreciation of some of the more controversial aspects of practice.

RODNEY LAING

Handbook of Tremor Disorders. Edited by LESLIE J FINDLEY and WILLIAM C KOLLER. (Pp 608; Price: $195.00). Published by Marcel Dekker, New York. ISBN 0-8247-8859-1.

Within the ethereal circle of movement disorders there exists a group of specialists who devote much of their time to research into tremor. These individuals, with the help of The International Tremor Foundation in Chicago, have organised a series of excellent symposia and workshops over the years and have significantly advanced both knowledge and awareness of the variety and complexity of neurological conditions in which tremor is a major clinical feature. Both the editors of this book have a major interest in the investigation and treatment of tremor, and as a result of their international contacts have been able to marshall a formidable team of contributors.

David Brooks reviews the recent findings from functional imaging, which have shown global overactivity of the cerebellum in the tremor of Parkinson's syndrome, essential tremor and neuropathic tremor, and in addition the fascinating finding that patients with an isolated rest tremor invariably have nigral dysfunction. It will be crucial to see if these cases remain as a discrete benign tremulous form of Parkinson's disease or go