included. The advice seems coherent and sensible, although an interesting omission was pizotifen from the list of migraine prophylactics (perhaps reflecting North American practice). Undoubtedly it is superficial, sometimes to the point of being unhelpful; surely Professors will moan. But then *The Manual* is not for them. Their registrars however may want to slip a copy into their white coat on the way to clinic, alongside that lucky tendon hammer and *Aids to the Examination of the Peripheral Nervous System*.

ALASDAIR COLES

Migraine: Manifestations, Pathogenesis, and Management. By ROBERT A DAVIDOFF. (Pp 375; £80.00.) Published by Waverly Europe Ltd, London 1995. ISBN 0-8036-2360-7.

This may not be the biggest text book on migraine but it is one of the better ones. The middle section, on the pathophysiology of migraine, is particularly good. You will have to look hard to find such a comprehensive, up-to-date and well-referenced discussion of this difficult and often bewildering subject. Vascular, neural, and other theories of migraine pathogenesis are covered logically, in depth and with authority over some 65 pages. It is perhaps no surprise to see that the author is not only a professor of neurology but professor of physiology, biophysics, and molecular and cellular pharmacology as well.

The first section critically reviews the epidemiology and diagnostic criteria for migraine, its myriad variations and trigger factors. Other headache syndromes are described and put in context but it is clear that this is a text book on migraine and not headache. Some 111 pages and about a third of the book's 2210 references cover this initial section.

The final section, on the treatment of patients with migraine, is of no lesser quality. As one might expect from a single authored text book there is again consistency, lack of duplication or overlap in the text. From the emphasis on the drugs described one can deduce that the author is American, with much on calcium antagonists and little on good old pizotifen. In this section I had hoped to learn more about Davidoff's personal practice and recommendations but in this respect I was a little disappointed. Overall this book is to be highly recommended to all neurologists and workers in the field of migraine. It is not only easily readable and well set out but also very well referenced.

PAUL DAVIES

Textbook of Geriatric Neuropsychiatry. By C EDWARD COFFEY and JEFFREY L CUMMINGS. (Pp 720; £94.50.) Published by The American Psychiatric Press Inc, Washington 1994. ISBN 0-88048-391-1.

Thanks to advances in neuroscientific research, neuropsychiatry is currently resurgent, but for the clinician it has the potential weakness of concentrating on "lesions" and "impairments", with the risk of neglecting the whole patient and his or her social

environment. This pitfall seems even more possible in "geriatric" neuropsychiatry with its backdrop of inevitable decline into senescence. So it is rather gloomy reading that everything gets worse with age, and at variance with the positive aspects of elderly people (dignity, wisdom, etc) and the great satisfaction to be gained from treating them as patients.

Following this conceptual grumble, I shall now praise this weighty red book. It is very thorough and informative, with extensive reviews of the neuropsychiatry of both psychiatric and neurological disorders, but also more general sections on aging, neuropsychology, neuroimaging, and neuropsychopharmacology. The chapters are contributed by leading American researchers and the format and standard are generally uniformly high. In some areas (for instance, anxiety, epilepsy), there is little neuropsychiatric research specifically relating to the elderly, but the relevance of the literature to old age is always emphasised. Perhaps the chapters on psychiatric disorders are less satisfactory than those concerning neurological illnesses—the discussion on mood disorders concentrates on neuropsychiatric aspects and secondary depression at the expense of ordinary major depression and (especially) its prognosis.

Large books suffer in areas of rapid technical advance, and this volume is already out of date on such topics as apolipoprotein E and tacrine. Nonetheless, it is a mine of information and will be a valuable source of reference for some time yet.

TOM DENING

Essentials of Clinical Neurophysiology. Edited by KARL E MISULIS. (Pp 306; £27.50). Published by Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford 1995. ISBN 0-7506-9657-5.

This is a brief book which encompasses an introduction to electroencephalography, electromyography, nerve conduction studies, evoked potentials, and polysomnography. It provides a flavour, therefore, of various clinical and technical aspects of the specialty without going into great depth. More than in other short texts, however, the naive reader is not introduced to some of the more interesting complexities. This is not helped by some of the diagrams, some of which appear to be schematic representations rather than reproductions of raw data (other than extracts of EEG). The author has noble intentions, therefore, in trying to present his subject in a way which is accessible and practical, but unfortunately this does not represent the best of short texts on clinical neurophysiology.

SIMON BONIFACE

Developments in Dementia and Functional Disorders in the Elderly. Edited by RAYMOND LEVY and ROBERT HOWARD. (Pp 196 £35.00). Published by Wrightson Biomedical Publishing Ltd, Petersfield, 1995. ISBN 1-871816-27-0.

This textbook arises from the course held last year at the Maudsley Hospital entitled an update on dementia and functional disorders

in the elderly. I attended the course and now reviewing the book I find myself like the cinema-goer who saw the film before reading the book.

The book is divided into three parts, an update on the dementias (Cortical Lewy body dementia, vascular dementia, and the genetics of Alzheimer's), drug trials in dementia, and the management of functional disorders (novel psychotics in the elderly, a review of antidepressants in the elderly, day hospitals). The book provides a relevant and balanced mix of basic science contributions and clinical issues. As with many multi-authored books style alters considerably but overall the standard is high, chapters are clearly written, and topics thoroughly reviewed by leading researchers and well-known clinicians.

Although a number of chapters, which at the time written presented state of the art work, will no doubt quickly date, the clinical chapters will provide good advice for some while.

At £35.00 a copy this book should without doubt be on the library shelf but I would also recommend it to old age psychiatrists and trainees for their personal library. It also has much of interest for geriatricians and adult psychiatrists. It certainly is a lot better than the notes I took!

CAROL GREGORY

SHORT NOTICES

Readers may be interested in

Legal Medicine. Third Edition—American College of Legal Medicine. By S Sandy Sanbar, Allan Gibofsky, Marvin H Firestone and Theodore R LeBlang. (Pp 754). Published by Mosby-Year Book, St Louis 1995. ISBN 0-8151-0131-7.

Life after Head Injury By Jane Hubert. (Pp 110 £30.00). Published by Avebury, Aldershot 1995. ISBN 1-85972-148-6.

Benzodiazepine Receptor Inverse Agonists. Edited by Martin Sarter, David J Nutt and Richard G Lister. (Pp 304 £73.00). Published by Wiley, Chichester 1995. ISBN 0-471-56173-8.

Neurobiology of Violence. By J Volavka. (Pp 397 £48.95). Published by The American Psychiatric Press Inc, Washington 1995. ISBN 0-88048-543-4.

Neurocardiology. Edited by J Andrew Armour and Jeffrey L Ardell. (Pp 443 £45.00). Published by Oxford University Press, Oxford 1994. ISBN 0-19-507304-5.

Stroke, 100 Maxims in Neurology. Edited by Frank M Yatsu, James C Grotta and L Creed Pettigrew. (Pp 178). Published by Mosby, London 1995. ISBN 0-8016-72813.