pregnancy and epilepsy and psychosocial aspects (the latter perhaps rather too superficial with only three aphorisms: "psychiatric disorders in people with epilepsy should be treated in the usual manner", "there may be many reasons for neuropsychological impairment in patients with epilepsy", "people with epilepsy require a comprehensive approach to their quality of life"). The last section is a forlorn plug for the importance of research. Roger Porter is now vice president of Wyeth-Ayest, a pharmaceutical company, and still provides a very balanced view of therapy; Bill Theodore is Chief of the Epilepsy Section of NINDS and despite this elevated position provides down-to-earth basic advice—both must be congratulated on achieving such a well-focused perspective. The information is uniformly simple and accurate, and there is indeed very little written with which one can quibble. The book has occasional weaknesses, for instance the discussion of risk of congenital malformation, the relevance of an illustration of a PET scan showing the functional localisation of unfamiliar melodies (at least to this non-functional reviewer), and the no-longer up-to-date list of ILAE and IBE chapters in the appendix. Who needs this book? I suppose the answer is who doesn't, for there is useful advice and wise counsel on most pages. It is aimed at neurologists, neurosurgeons and primary care physicians, and the authors conclude "Should this book make a contribution to the care of patients with epilepsy, we will be most pleased".

SIMON SHORVON

Microsurgical Dissection of the Cranial Base. Edited by JOHN DIAZ DAY, MANFRED TSCHABITSCHER AND CHRISTIAN MUTULA. (Pp 176; price £75-00.) 1995. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. ISBN 0443075506.

Despite some initial resistance, the neurosurgical fraternity have progressively embraced the concept of subspecialisation. The surgery of the skull base is one of the areas where its benefits have become most obvious. Perhaps the clearest example is in the surgery of acoustic neuromas where the mortality and morbidity rates have fallen spectacularly since the introduction of specialist teams to undertake this type of work. Those teams who often initially focused their efforts on the internal auditory meatus have widened their horizons and now increasingly refer to themselves as skull base surgeons. The usually fruitful combining of otolaryngologists, plastic surgeons and neurosurgeons has allowed us to tackle and successfully treat many lesions of the skull base which until very recently would have been considered completely inoperable. These developments have resulted in the parallel growth of a multiplicity of specialist societies and meetings dedicated to the surgery of the skull base and to an avalanche of books and journals on the subject. This volume is another. The author(s) purpose in the volume is to propose a series of cadaveric dissections which will prepare the trainee surgeons in the various approaches to the skull base. There is no doubt that under the new training proposals about to begin in the United Kingdom the new generation of young surgeons are likely to be less surgically experienced than their predecessors and consequently are increasingly likely to require to improve their skills in the dissect-

ing room or laboratory. This book should aid that process as far as surgery of the skull base is concerned. It is lavishly illustrated and the text is clear and as readable as any anatomical text is likely to be. Unfortunately the illustrations are only in black and white and this substantially reduces their value, even if it keeps the price of the volume down. The volume is likely to find its niche in the laboratory or dissecting rooms, but I suspect that those who will be able to follow it best are those who are already experienced in and familiar with the approaches used in the book. It covers all the standard approaches to the various regions of the skull base and should prove helpful to those who want a comprehensive instruction guide to train young surgeons in the laboratory. The book represents reasonable value for money.

DAVID HARDY

Aids and Neurology. By MICHAEL J G HARRISON and JUSTIN C MCARTHUR. (Pp 262; £70-00.) Published by Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh 1995. ISBN 0-4430-4896-7.

What was this odd disorder being described in San Francisco gays, we used to wonder as neurological registrars in the London of the early 1980s. What was the cause of this syndrome of acquired cell mediated immunity, was it the habit of sniffing amylal or the other strange habits of the denizens of the city known in our youth as the home of hippies and other exotic alternative lifestyles? Before long we were being asked to see a homosexual patient admitted with what turned out to be cerebral toxoplasmosis and our education in AIDS related neurology had begun. Later came the hysteria in the tabloid press epitomised by the Sun's infamous front page "10 symptoms of AIDS" (which included headache) allowing the birth of a second disorder familiar to those of us then working in inner-city neurology, "Fear of AIDS" adding a new dimension to the management of tension headaches in young males. A new fearful disease had been born replete with medieval archetypes of sin and imported foreign pestilence, a grim backdrop to the entrepreneurial selfishness of Thatcher's new Britain. It was just as well for neurology since syphilis, the outgoing neurological mimic, could now be replaced with a brand new multi-organ, multi-stage infectious disease whose manifestations in the nervous system were, it became clear, protean. Suddenly a whole lot of new multiple choice questions could be generated for postgraduate exams.

Michael Harrison of the Middlesex Hospital and Justin McArthur from the Johns Hopkins have now produced this invaluable monograph on the neurology of AIDS. They review the epidemiology and virology of the "neurotropic, neuroinvasive, neurovirulent" HIV whose infection presents with a neurological syndrome in 10–30% of cases. All the neurological faces of AIDS including sero-conversion disorders and the difficult issue of the neuropsychology of pre-AIDS HIV-positive patients are covered in a thorough, helpful and practical way. We learn of the different profile of opportunistic infections seen in children with HIV infection and the frequency of progressive encephalopathy in these children. In the chapter on peripheral nerve disorder in AIDS there is a nice discussion of

the differential diagnosis of neuropathic symptoms and their treatment. Perhaps new to some neurologists in this chapter is the point that Bell's palsy should trigger HIV testing in an "at risk" patient, which still means gays and drug-abusers in the "pattern 1" countries of the west (and South America). Opportunistic infections by fungi, viruses, bacteria and parasites in HIV patients are of course thoroughly covered. In this section the intelligence that pigeon droppings are a main source of cryptococcus has put Trafalgar square into a different perspective for me.

Rounding off the book are chapters reviewing the common neurological symptoms in HIV infection (more helpful than the Sun's earlier review) and the role of various neurological investigations, in which the difficulties of radiological differential diagnosis in AIDS patients are detailed. Throughout this book is beautifully illustrated with well produced colour pathological photographs of the conditions discussed, excellent up-to-date scan images and clear line diagrams. The text is liberally broken up by helpful tables and management flow diagrams. These high class production features and the excellent readable, informative text make this book a must for all neurologists who might come across a patient with the neurological manifestation of AIDS, which includes all of us.

CHRIS ALLEN

Schizophrenia. Edited by STEVEN R HIRSCH and DANIEL R WEINBERGER. (Pp 740; £69-50.) Published by Blackwell Science, Oxford 1995. ISBN 0-6320-3276-6.

It is a measure of just how far psychiatry has come over the past two decades that Hirsch and Weinberger have been able to put together a book of this substance on schizophrenia. It is striking, particularly with the American input, just how little space is allowed for the fanciful notions of psychoanalysis with regard to aetiology and treatment. The book is divided into four sections: descriptive aspects, biological aspects, where the real strength of the book lies, physical treatments and psychosocial aspects. Most of the individual chapters are excellent, especially those based on the neurosciences, providing good source material for researchers and valuable information for clinicians, for instance the chapters on treatment and Taylor's chapter on risk of violence. The absence of sections on particular topics (for example, suicide risk) is compensated for by good indexing which yields a range of perspectives on the subject.

Like most multi-author books it cannot hope to give the complete picture and some of the background and colour is missing. The arbitrary sequence of chapters reflects the individual authors' interests rather than fitting into a logical whole. This is a book for physicians who already know something about schizophrenia and beginners who need to acquire a real understanding of the disorder should turn to McKenna's excellent book "Schizophrenia and Related Syndromes".

I have a few cavils. There is no reference to the Soviet psychiatrist Snezhnevsky, despite the fact that his system of classification is now to be found in ICD-10. Another touch of political correctness is the chapter on homelessness which happens to be excellent but is akin to putting a chapter on