

certain areas which should be central to the authors' aims are surprisingly sketchy. The chapter on the expert as witness is brief and lacking in discussion as to the nature of expert testimony. There is, however, a useful chapter on an often neglected area on the assessment and treatment of the perpetrator.

I have two general concerns over this book. The first, a minor one, is the ethnocentricity of the authors: there is little reference to work done outside the US. My major worry, however, is in the way the authors appear to have isolated sexual abuse and dealt with it as something apart from other factors in a child's life. In many cases where sexual abuse has occurred its effects are minor compared with the gross emotional abuse of which it is a part. It seems unreal to talk of sexual abuse as a single condition requiring certain sorts of treatment approaches. The authors note that there are moves to introduce a DSM category of 'sexual abuse child disorder'. Their only concern over this is in the possible labelling effects. In a previous chapter they have rightly shown how sexual abuse can be followed by almost any form of psychiatric disorder. This focus on the abuse itself leads to an over-emphasis on the role of the child psychiatrist as the determinor of truth, i.e. the person who will find out what really happened to the child. This is not really our role. The real contribution of the child psychiatrist must be to provide a comprehensive psychiatric assessment of the child in which any effects of sexual abuse can be seen in the context of the child's total development and needs. Despite these criticisms, the book does provide a useful introduction to the literature, and like it or not, referrals involving sexual abuse seem set to continue rising.

STEPHEN WOLKIND, *Consultant Child Psychiatrist, The Maudsley Hospital*

Language and Speech Disorders: A Neurophysiological Approach. By E. M. R. CRITCHLEY. London: Clinical Neuroscience Publishers. 1987. 203 pp. £17.00.

Those readers familiar with Critchley's writings will not be disappointed by this book on language and speech disorders. Its subtitle is somewhat misleading, the essence of the book being to review disorders of language and speech but setting them in a much broader perspective than is usually the case. Critchley's approach is Jacksonian; it does not derive from Wernicke. He quotes Jackson at the beginning of his first chapter: "To locate the damage which destroys speech and to locate speech are two different things." Followers of Jackson, such as Head and Pick, are cited with approval. Critchley points out that it is unusual for patients to present with pure aphasic syndromes, and emphasises the importance of not overlooking the natural longitudinal progression of lesions presenting with aphasia in understanding such conditions.

Following a brief historical introduction, the disorders of speech and language which are covered are varied and comprehensive. Receptive disorders of language, autism, Parkinson's disease, and the linguistic aspects of schizophrenia are all discussed. In terms of mechanisms, the exploration of consequences of frontal lobe, thalamic, brain-stem and peri-aqueductal disturbances on speech are set alongside the role that neurotransmitters may play. This brings in the speech and language disturbances not only of Parkinson's disease, but also of such widespread disabilities as the Lesch-Nyhan syndrome, the Gilles de la Tourette syndrome, and the consequences of treatment with psychotropic drugs.

Some neurologists may distrust Critchley's use of some neurological concepts, e.g. para-epileptic phenomena; others will surely oppose attempts to move neurology away from the strict localisationist viewpoint which has dominated the subject for many years. They should not be discouraged from reading this text, however, which is certainly not the diatribe against the established position which Freud's book on aphasia was, but which contains some useful information and many thoughtful paragraphs. It will certainly be of value to psychiatrists who wish to explore aphasia and related conditions from a neuropsychiatric point of view, and can be recommended for those interested in reading the kind of books that Critchley writes.

M. R. TRIMBLE, *Consultant Physician in Psychological Medicine, The National Hospital, Queen Square, London*

Pocket Examiner in Psychiatry. By PATRICK MCKEON and EILISH GILVARRY. Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, and New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1988. 268 pp. £7.95.

This slim volume would easily fit into the side pocket of a white coat, but would be a tight fit in the back pocket of designer jeans. Since the book is aimed at MRCPsych candidates, final year medical students, and other post-graduate doctors, the problem of jeans should rarely arise.

No reference is made to the cover photograph, which resembles a micrograph of gastric mucosa, but could be the hippocampus.

The book consists of 399 (why not 400?) questions covering the major topics in psychiatry, presented in random order, which are to be answered aloud to a colleague before reading the text answer which is to be found later in the book. This is to prepare the candidate for "the uncertainty and immediacy" of oral examination, but the format does not allow systematic study of a particular topic. The text contains the answer to the question, followed by references to well-known post-graduate textbooks or selected review articles. Although