patients with new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. A scholarly
discussion of multiple system atrophy includes useful “red flags” to
keep in mind when considering the possibility of this syndrome
occurring in the setting of parkinsonism.

The authors should be complemented on producing such an all-
inclusive volume. It is a bit large to be called a “handbook”, but is a
book that should be found on the shelves of any clinician that has
more than a passing interest in these disorders. Neurology trainees
will find it particularly useful as they are making their way through
this often confusing territory.

Wayne Martin
Edmonton, Alberta

NEUROLOGICAL EPIONYMS, 2000. By P.J. Koehler, G.W. Bruyn,
J.M.S. Pearce (eds). Published by New York, Oxford University
Press. CS 87.95 approx.

This is a collection of 55 essays written by 51 prominent
neurologists and other neuroscientists. They are grouped under the
headings Structures and Processes; Symptoms and Signs; Reflexes
and other Tests; Syndromes; and Diseases and Defects. Almost
every one is illustrated with a portrait of its subject and most have
additional diagrams of the entity linked with his name – no women
are represented, not even Mme Dejerine (but then again, nor is her
husband). Each chapter runs to 2000 words or so, and referencing
is very adequate.

The work is an expansion of a shorter set of essays on the founders
of the neurological examination, published in Holland in 1995, and
will be a welcome addition to the library of those who like to achieve
some mental closure through understanding of the circumstances
under which the aspect of neurology in question was first defined, and
through attainment of some familiarity with details of its progenitor.
The biographies are agreeably succinct while being adequately
detailed, but most who buy the book will have much of this
information already. It is the critical evaluations of the phenomena, in
each case presenting the relevant data and analyzing them in fair but
not excessive depth, that make the book most appealing.

There are a few issues on which a picky reviewer might take issue – did Sir Henry Head truly report that gall-bladder pain refers to the
left shoulder? Was not the most useful sign described by Jules
Froment (the ‘circle sign’) that which assists in the diagnosis of
anterior interosseous palsy rather than the clumsy signe de journal for
ulnar nerve palsy? How does the cerebellum displace downwards
within the fourth ventricle in the Chiari malformation? How many of
the patients of John Norris with vertebral artery dissections following
chiropractic manipulation developed a Wallenberg syndrome? But
this book contains only a few such small infelicities, while it
will find it particularly useful for anyone interested in the field, from the junior resident
to the most experienced epileptologist.

Richard Leblanc
Montreal, Ontario

LE JOURNAL CANADIEN DES SCIENCES NEUROLOGIQUES

Comair. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 1060 pages.
C$292.53 approx.

Many pearls are contained within this book but one has to shuck
a lot of oysters to get at them. It is less a textbook than a collection
of essays by well-recognized authorities active in the surgical
treatment of patients with medically intractable epilepsy. It is a big
and broad and heavy book comprised of 180 chapters grouped into
18 sections and running to over a thousand pages. It could have
benefited from the editors’ blue pencil to condense and abridge some
of the chapters dealing with the same or similar topics so as to
present a more cohesive treatise on epilepsy surgery. These minor
irritants apart, the book is encyclopedic, authoritative, and entirely
up-to-date. Especially welcome to this reader is a discussion of the
contributions of Fedor Krause and Oftrid Foerster to the surgical
treatment of epilepsy in the history section of the book. This section
is followed by an overview of epilepsy surgery. The meat of the
book is entered in section three where epileptic syndromes are
addressed. Especially noteworthy in this section is the discussion on
Rasmussen’s syndrome. A short section on presurgical evaluation
precedes a more extensive discussion on structural and functional
neuroimaging. Generally speaking the quality of the reproduced
images is satisfactory, and the quality and detail of the images in the
chapter on imaging of the cerebral cortex are stunning. The
architectural planning of a monitoring unit, various modes of
detection of epileptogenic foci, and discussions of electroencepha-
lography and magnetoencephalography precede a section on
neuropsychology and psychiatry. This is followed by four chapters
on sodium amobarbital testing. By this time 60% of the book has
been covered with nary a mention of surgery. This is remedied in the
following 250 pages where invasive procedures for electroencepha-
lography with foramen ovale, epidural, subdural, and depth
electrodes, alone or in combination, are addressed. There follows an
extensive discussion of therapeutic surgical techniques for the
resection of epileptogenic foci and lesions in specific parts of the
brain. (Parenthetically, the surgical treatment of frontal lobe epilepsy
is addressed in a chapter that has five more authors than the number of
its pages). There is an especially strong chapter on the selection
of surgical procedures for patients with temporal lobe epilepsy. Due
importance is given to structural brain lesions such as cortical
dysplasias, tumors and vascular lesions as a source of epileptic
seizures. Other procedures, such as hemispherectomy in its various
guises, callosotomy, and vagal nerve stimulation, an especially
timely topic, are addressed in detail. Most of the remainder of the
book deals with outcome and the management of surgical failures.
The book ends with seven appendices addressing a variety of topics,
some already dealt with in the body of the book. Throughout the
book, special attention is given to the pediatric population in terms
of investigation, surgical planning, and surgical techniques.

The overall impression then is of a very timely, highly
authoritative and comprehensive book that will serve as a useful
reference for anyone interested in the field, from the junior resident
to the most experienced epileptologist.

William Pryse-Phillips
St John’s, Newfoundland