followed in turn by three-dimensional methods popularly known as SPECT. Single photon emission, the use of cold xenon and finally positron emission (PET) complete this aspect of the picture. Four contributions on nuclear magnetic resonance and a section on Doppler sonography round off the story.

Inevitably in a production of this kind, which comprises communications to an international symposium held in Heidelberg in 1983, the contributions vary in quality. Nevertheless, the book is a valuable compendium of the methodology of measurement of rCBF and metabolism and as such will be a useful reference source for workers in this field.

J MARSHALL

Recent Advances in Clinical Psychiatry—5. Edited by Kenneth Granville-Grossman. (Pp 277; £22.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1985.

This 5th edition is as welcome as its predecessors. The series aims to provide discerning and critical accounts of recent developments in psychiatry, written by acknowledged experts and this volume will be of interest not only to those practising psychiatry but to others in related specialties. The title is perhaps a little misleading in that relatively few chapters reflect actual advances, but the others are valuable distillations of current knowledge in a particular area or "state of the art" descriptions of techniques or investigations. Volumes of this sort manage to combine a close approximation to the immediacy achieved by a "Year Book", with the much more considered approach possible in a lengthy and detailed review article. As with all reviews readers must remember that it is impossible to be impartial. The exhaustive lists of references are a bonus.

Chapters which could be considered as describing recent advances include those on the new brain imaging techniques and on neuropeptides. The first of these provides a clear review of previous techniques, including CT scans, and the relevant findings, followed by descriptions of the exciting developments which may allow us to study brain function, rather than structure, safely *in vivo*. Some of the preliminary results of studies of cerebral blood flow are presented and the possible contribution of positron

emission tomography and magnetic resonance imaging to the exploration of the biological basis of psychiatric illness are anticipated. The chapter on neuropeptides emphasises that their discovery means the taking of a very different, and much more complex view of brain function than before. These substances represent a large new generation of brain transmitters whose role in communication extends beyond typical neurotransmission, through neuromodulation to neuroendocrine activity. Much of the information which could be useful to psychiatry is not yet available and the author cautions against the development of a neuropeptide "bandwagon".

Chapters which could be described as distillations of current knowledge include those on psychosocial aspects of drug abuse, emotional aspects of physical illness, psychiatric aspects of cancer, culture-bound syndromes, benzodiazepines, drug treatments in child psychiatry and the sequelae of head injury. Each is written by one or more enthusiasts and represents a very informative and full account of the present state of knowledge. It is difficult to select particular chapters for comment, and each reader will find some more useful than others. To take just one, the chapter on head injury makes some very interesting comments on the late sequelae of head injury not accompanied by unconsciousness. It appears that evidence now exists to suggest that Miller's views on compensation have disadvantaged many sufferers.

The subject matter of the third group of chapters, those describing the "state of the art" includes cognitive therapy, family treatment in schizophrenia and biological markers in depression. The styles of these chapters are very different, from a very clear and balanced account of cognitive therapy in its current context, to a very enthusiastic and persuasive account of family therapy in schizophrenia, to a concise description of the place of biological markers in the understanding of depressive illness.

Books which bring such detailed analysis quickly to their readers must be very hard to edit and Dr Granville-Grossman is to be congratulated again for the general standard of "readability" of the contents. If such a volume were to run a second edition, then the chapters on head injury, and particularly on the culture-bound syndrome could be clarified with benefit, and one could wish for authors to be more critical in their use of classifications of depressive illness. There are, however, small criticisms of an otherwise very useful addition to the series.

ISOBEL R CARD

The Acute Stroke. By Norris and Hachinski. (Pp 286; \$56.25.) New York: FA Davis, UK Distrib: Quest-Meridien Ltd, 1985.

The literature on acute stroke is replete with the proceedings of scientific meetings and it is refreshing to read a book that is not a multi-author monstrosity but a carefully constructed monograph by two authors. Drs Hachinski and Norris worked together for several years at the Acute Stroke Unit in Toronto and the book is based on this experience. It is intended to be a guide for physicians dealing with acute stroke and gives definite guidelines on clinical assessment, investigations, management and treatment. Others who are intimately involved in cerebrovascular research are certain to challenge certain points, but generally the advice given is in keeping with modern thinking. There is an extensive reference list provided, but with books of this nature there is inevitably some delay before publication. Some recent references are omitted including those of the Cerebral Embolism Study Group on the dangers of anticoagulation following emboli of cardiac origin.

There are a few inconsistencies, possibly between the two authors. At one point they state that acute stroke units do not affect the early mortality rate and elsewhere that the reduction in mortality might produce an increased morbidity.

Generally, my quibbles are only minor and I think this book should prove to be very useful as a guide to all physicians, who have to deal with patients who have suffered a recent stroke.

DJ THOMAS

Modern Approaches to the Dementias. Part I: Etiology and Pathophysiology. Part II: Clinical and Therapeutic. Aspects Interdisciplinary Topics in Gerontology Series 19 & 20. Edited by F Clifford Rose. (Pp 230 & 202; Complete set \$143.00.) Basel: S Karger, 1985.

These volumes are the outcome of a conference on Dementia held in London in 1983. The papers collected cover a wide range of research on dementia.

Part I is divided into sections covering aetiological and genetic aspects, immunological factors, advances in histopathology and neurotransmitter metabolism. Unfortunately, the format as well as the quality of the papers varies, and only some attempt an overall synthesis or perspective, while many

present data already published. There are, however, useful reviews; for example, there are helpful chapters by Wisniewski and colleagues, one on hypotheses of aetiology, and another on the nature of neurofibrillary tangles; by Constantinidis on Pick's dementia; and a section on neurotransmitter metabolism is generally comprehensive and authoritative.

Part II is divided likewise into sections, covering clinical aspects, diagnostic methods, epidemiology, therapeutic aspects and patient care. Inevitably the contents are rather overshadowed by the disappointing results of drug treatment. Several chapters usefully address the problems of definition; this, and the section on cholinergic drugs in memory, were in this reviewer's opinion, the most useful components of Part II.

Overall this is not a very satisfactory publication, although it is elegantly produced and its breadth of coverage provides an overview which would make it useful in a departmental library, although the price will prejudice most individuals and many libraries against deciding to purchase it, particularly when there are more up-to-date and succinct presentations of a similar range of information.

P NIGEL LEIGH

Neuropsychological Rehabilitation after Brain Injury. By George P Prigatano and Others. (Pp 183; \$24.50.) Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1986.

This is an important contribution to the hitherto neglected area of neuro-rehabilitation. While there are still very few practitioners in neurorehabilitation in Britain, this is not true of the United States where this area of rehabilitation is a growth industry. Unfortunately, research into process and outcome has not matched the growth in service delivery, but Prigatano's book represents a very welcome exception to this trend. The book gives a conceptual basis to rehabilitation by describing the common sequelae of acute brain injury, and describing simple means of intervention. The book then describes in detail the rehabilitation programme at Presbyterian Hospital, Oklahoma City, which has been Prigatano's. The unusual feature of this programme has been the extent to which Prigatano and his colleagues have attempted to measure patient deficits and outcome, and to document the impact of intervention. Indeed a paper by them on this topic has already appeared in this journal. This book is required reading

for any practitioner involved in rehabilitation of the acutely brained injured. It is absolutely fundamental reading for all neurosurgeons, particularly those who still believe that recovery stops very early after injury, and does so at a very low level of functioning. Congratulations to Prigatano and his team.

DN BROOKS

Secretory Tumors of the Pituitary Gland (*Progress in Endocrine Research & Therapy Vol 1*). Editors: Peter McL Black, Nicholas T Zervas, E Chester Ridgway and Joseph B Martin. (Pp 416; \$80.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1984.

Amongst the plethora of recent text books on the pituitary gland, this volume is one of the best. There are five sections: those on prolactin, growth hormone and ACTH secreting tumours are comprehensive and well written and the fourth section on glycoprotein hormones is particularly valuable because of the new information which is reviewed concerning tumours secreting these hormones. Recent research into tumours which are apparently functionless is reviewed critically in relation to LH and FSH secretion. Although this appears to be a biochemical finding frequently present *in vitro* but without clinical correlation, it is clear that attention has now turned to the possibility that functionless tumours will acquire endocrine significance.

The fifth section in the book is devoted to pathological and surgical considerations and includes a useful review of the results of an international survey of pituitary tumours treated by transphenoidal hypophysectomy. Reference is made to the satisfactory results in terms of improved vision following the treatment of macroadenomas, though it is not yet clear at what price the advantage of transphenoidal surgery is bought in terms of late recurrence.

Finally the book contains chapters in three sections on the genetic regulation of hormone synthesis summarising recent advances derived from molecular biology. These advances already have clinical significance, for example in our understanding of the action of dopamine on prolactin secreting tumours.

This book can be recommended because it includes new information as well as excellent reviews of accepted clinical practice.

NF LAWTON

Extra-Intracranial Vascular Anastomoses Microsurgery at the Edge of the Tentorium (*Advances in Neurosurgery Vol 13*). Edited H Dietz, M Brock, M Klinger. (Pp 350; £39.50.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1985.

This volume is a collection of 53 papers presented at the 35th annual meeting of the German Society of Neurosurgery in Hannover in June 1984. The first 170 pages are devoted to aspects of extra-intracranial vascular anastomoses. Whilst these papers are a tribute to neurosurgical industry and ingenuity, the recently published co-operative study has, for the moment, dampened enthusiasm for this procedure in the relief of occlusive cerebrovascular disease. This situation is likely to persist until it can be shown that there is a group of patients with diminished cerebrovascular reserve whose natural history can be improved with a bypass.

The 40 page section on microsurgery at the edge of the tentorium is of interest but is both superficial and marred by inadequate line diagrams of the anatomy. The final 130 pages are devoted to Professor Pia's lecture on primary and secondary hypothalamus and brain stem lesions together with miscellaneous papers, the best of which have already appeared in refereed journals. Like most conference proceedings, this book is not worthy of purchase.

J PICKARD

Recent Developments in Parkinson's Disease Edited by Stanley Fahn, C David Marsden, Peter Jenner and Paul Teychenne (Pp 397; \$82.50.) New York: Raven Press, 1985.

In October 1984, when most of us were facing the hardships of a British winter earning a humble neurological crust, the contributors to this well produced volume were enduring the doubtless equal (if somewhat different) adversities of a sponsored workshop in Bermuda. The proceedings contain a great deal of the latest scientific research of a very high order from the best laboratories and departments in the USA, Great Britain and Europe.

The main sections cover: anatomy, biochemistry and pathology, imaging of dopamine receptors, MPTP-induced Parkinsonism, pharmacology and long term treatment, use of bromocriptine, and the use of other dopamine agonists.

There is an enormous amount of up to date basic science encompassed between these covers. Elegantly illustrated PET scans using fluorodesoxyglucose show storage