It is I believe unfortunate that the book has fallen between being a well edited overview of this very exciting field and merely another conference proceedings. It will prove useful to people working actively in this area but only for the more general chapters cited, as much of the material is already becoming out of date. Unless there is a copy in the library it cannot be recommended to the more general reader and it is difficult to see how a price of \$150 in the UK can possibly be justified.

M ROSSOR

Neurosciences in Israel. By N OREN AND O ABRAMSKY. (Pp 331; Price: not stated.) Jerusalem, Ministry of Science and Technology, 1989.

This is an interesting publication published by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Jerusalem, Israel which gives a wealth of information on the current status of neuroscience research in Israel. The authors, Dr Naomi Oren and Professor Oded Abramsky (the latter is Head of the Department of Neurology at the Hebrew University in Hadassah Medical Centre, Jerusalem and Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Health) have compiled a volume which gives comprehensive information on current research in this field in no less than 334 pages. The format is not one of a textbook or monograph, but is arranged in a series of sections.

The subject of neuroscience is covered in the widest possible context. We are first given a summary of scientists working in the neuroscience fields in the major University and Health Centres. Brief biographies of these various individuals are given together with their main research areas of interest. The subjects span virtually the whole range of neuroscience including electrophysiology, biophysics, neurochemistry, neuropharmacology, neuropsychology, neurobiology, neurogenetics, neuroepidemiology, neuroimmunology, neurovirology, neuropsychiatry, developmental neurobiology, neuroendocrinology, and behavioural neurology. One certainly gets a feel from this book for the breadth of neuroscience interest in the various Israeli Institutes. The specific scientific activities are then summarised succinctly together with the relevant researchers and I found this to be the most interesting part of the publication. I certainly gained a good deal of very useful information from these summaries and one also appreciated the high standard of academic endeavour. Finally, some general conclusions regarding, for example, the percentage of medical researchers in part-time and full-time research as well as suggestions for collaboration are given. The book ends with a long list of selected publications which I also found useful.

Overall this is an intriguing compilation of data and the authors are to be congratulated on amassing such a large amount of data covering so many fields and in presenting their data so succinctly and cogently. *Neurosciences in Israel* is a book which should be read by all those who are interested in neurosciences in general as well as those intending to collaborate with the various excellent groups in Israel. There is a great deal of interesting information in the book quite apart from the specific relevance to Israeli neuroscience research and I was certainly

very pleased to have this volume in my collection. I believe it would be a useful addition to any neurology or neuroscience library.

PETER GE KENNEDY

Neurophysiology. Applications in the Behavioural and Biomedical Sciences. Ellis Horwood Series in Neurosciences. By K A CLARKE. (Pp 150; Price: £29.95.) Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd/Halstead Press, 1990. ISBN 0-470-21554-2.

This book is written for graduate and undergraduate students in psychology, the behavioural and paramedical sciences. It is also intended to be suitable for psychiatric nurses, speech and psychotherapists. It presents a basic integrated appraisal of neurophysiology at an appropriate level. The information contained is presented in a series of short numbered paragraphs interspersed with many schematic diagrams. These are generally clear although some could have been improved in quality. The text is clearly written and easily comprehensible. There are occasional minor factual inaccuracies but nothing that could be seriously criticised.

Overall I thought that this was quite a nice basic text but I was left feeling rather dissatisfied at the end because of the necessarily superficial coverage of the subject. The student with an enquiring mind or with a specific question to answer would probably not find this book adequate for their needs and might prefer to put its rather high price towards a more comprehensive text.

TIMOTHY J WALLS

Advances and Technical Standards in Neurosurgery, Vol. 17. Edited by L SYMON, L CALLIAUW, F COHADON, B GUIDETTI, F LOEW, H NORNES, E PASZTOR, B PERTUISSET, J D PICKARD, M G YASARGIL. (Pp 255; DM 178.) Wien, Springer-Verlag, ISBN 3-211-82117-1, 1990.

Advances and Technical Standards in Neurosurgery is sponsored by the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies. Since the series was started in 1974 a new volume has appeared each year. It is edited by a committee of distinguished neurosurgeons drawn from Europe, and is intended as a contribution to the postgraduate training of younger neurosurgeons. It contains a small number of comprehensive reviews of key aspects of neurosurgery especially those where relatively rapid change is taking place. Each volume is divided into two parts: "Advances" and "Technical Standards". In theory the chapters in the first category are devoted to theoretical and scientific topics, whilst those in the second category involve detailed descriptions of established operative and technical procedures. In practice, this division between the two sections appears somewhat arbitrary and chapters in each section discuss both technical details and advances in the basic sciences.

This volume covers a varied and stimulating range of topics all relevant to the neurosurgeon who wishes to keep abreast of current developments. In the advances section are chapters on the immunobiology of

brain tumours, the transplantation of adrenal medullary tissue into the brain, and the computer assisted resection of cerebral tumours. The technical standards section reviews the different surgical approaches to colloid cysts of the third ventricle, stabilisation of the spine, and the role of surgery in the management of gliomas. With the exception of the chapters on adrenal medullary transplantation and colloid cysts none of these reviews makes especially easy reading but all are comprehensive, well edited and accompanied by extensive lists of references. The editors have largely succeeded in eradicating the problems, previously apparent, caused by bringing out a book written by a range of authors, some of whom have only a limited fluency in writing English prose. Volume 17, of this series, can be recommended with few reservations. As is only to be expected from a German publishing house, this book is beautifully printed, bound and illustrated. Unfortunately, the high price means that few individual neurosurgeons in the United Kingdom are likely to buy it but it should be acquired by both hospital and departmental libraries.

RS MAURICE-WILLIAMS

Great Men with Sick Brains and Other Essays. By B LJUNGGREN. (Pp 130; Price: \$35 prepaid payable to AANS). Order direct from The American Assoc. of Neurological Surgeons, 22 South Washington Street, Suite 100, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068, USA. 1990. ISBN 0-9624246-0-9.

This is a delightful, entertaining and scholarly series of short stories. They are both historical and biographical. Based on a personal and therefore to some extent idiosyncratic selection, Professor Ljunggren has painted the lifetimes and pioneering achievements of some great founders of neurological surgery. Many of these achievements are not well known, and therefore are of additional interest and importance. Of added spice, Ljunggren includes a good deal of the political and historical incidents which were interwoven with the professional lives of these early discoverers.

We learn of Wilhelm Wagner from Königshütte, the inventor of the osteoplastic flap; of Vilhelm Magnus from Oslo whose work paralleled that of Cushing. Long before Macewen and Godlee, Olof Acrel in 1768 removed in part a soldier's brain tumour which grew through the skull vault. Dr Blackall of Oxford described subarachnoid haemorrhage due to rupture of an aneurysm "the size of a horsebean" at the basilar tip in 1813. Edvard Bull described in detail (1870) a "meningeal apoplexy" which quite remarkably he recognised as being caused by a presumed aneurysm of the posterior communicating artery. This was 50 years before Symond's definitive study in 1923. In 1817 Carl Daniel von Haartman of Turku performed a trepanation of the skull for a depressed fracture. Christopher Withusen performed a common carotid ligation and temporarily abolished pulsating exophthalmos in 1831, only to find an encephalocoele, 12 years later at autopsy.

Chapter 3 tells the fascinating life of Axel Key, and of his meeting with the inventor of dynamite: Alfred Nobel; and of the latter's