tions, and brain haemorrhage. They have adopted a clinical approach addressing the disorders in order of clinical frequency. The pathophysiology, investigation, and subsequent treatment are considered.

The book is particularly well illustrated, and the radiographic replications are of good quality. The cartoons demonstrating operative techniques are also well illustrated. These are supplemented by intraoperative colour photographs, which have been successful in demonstrating the key anatomical points. The treatment options are largely based on the author's personal experience, but they do mention alternatives and these are well referenced. However, I did find the chapter on endovascular techniques to be rather superficial in comparison with the other key subjects discussed.

My only criticism is that the book does not devote much attention to the evolving techniques for assessing cerebral blood flow. Imaging techniques are presently being evaluated for their usefulness in directing treatment and assessing therapy. It would seem that such techniques will play an important part in the management of cerebral vascular diseases in the near future, and it would have been appropriate to have devoted a chapter to them. Overall this third edition of the *Surgical Management of Neurovascular Disease* is a comprehensive review, well written and particularly well illustrated. As such it would be appropriate for the general neurosurgical readership as well as those who have specialised in neurovascular conditions. I recommend this piece of work strongly.

PETER KIRKPATRICK

Neurophysiological Basis of Cerebral Blood Flow Control: An Introduction. Edited by S MRAOVITCH and R SERCOMBE. (Pp 408; £40.00.) 1996. London: John Libbey & Co Ltd. ISBN 0-8619-6272-9.

This text aims to provide a comprehensive review of the cerebral circulation and its regulation, and is directed at undergraduates and graduates of both the natural sciences and medicine.

The book is divided into two equal sections. The first provides an account of the anatomy and comparative anatomy of the brain vasculature, together with the relevant basic physiology, biochemistry, and pharmacology of the central nervous system. The second section discusses experimental and clinical methods of study of the cerebral circulation and metabolism, current hypotheses on the neural and humoral regulation of cerebral blood flow, and the clinical implications for conditions such as stroke, subarachnoid haemorrhage, epilepsy, migraine, and autonomic dysfunction.

The text is well illustrated, easy to read, and certainly fulfills its major objective or providing an introduction to the study of cerebral blood flow. Whether it will prove as attractive to clinicians as to natural scientists

is less certain. The section discussing clinical methods of investigation of the cerebral circulation makes no mention of such techniques as transcranial Doppler, NMR diffusion imaging, or dynamic perfusion CT. The clinical section is also rather disappointing in providing no discussion of the altered cerebral haemodynamics which accompany head injury, only a scant overview of the literature on cerebral ischaemia, and very little in the way of discussion of the therapeutic manoeuvres which are available either to enhance cerebral blood flow or to protect the brain from the effects of impaired cerebral perfusion.

These, however, are relatively minor criticisms of what is a useful and enjoyable text on the regulation of cerebral blood flow, which is presented in a very reader friendly manner. It is to be commended to clinicians in training.

ROBERT MACFARLANE

Clinical Skills in Neurology. Edited by MICHAEL HARRISON. (Pp 153; £15.99.) 1996. Published by Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford. ISBN 0-7506-2520-1.

An outpatient note reading "Wasted hands + fascic + brisk reflexes = MND = TCI" might not satisfy a notes auditor but his registrars got used to such pithy annotations from Michael Harrison realising that they epitomised the clarity and economy of his clinical method, now encapsulated in this slender book for the neurological tyro. A medical student who had retained the correct three quarters of this book would need to look no further for reading matter and if successfully applying the wisdom of this book in clinical practice would have more than sufficient neurological skill. A senior house officer timorously approaching the neurology job on the rotation would feel that it was a pretty simple business once he or she had carefully read these 146 pages. This is of course what this book intended to achieve, so perhaps the only surprising thing (to those that do not know him) is that Professor Harrison stands a good chance of succeeding in his objectives. However, in the highly competitive market of neurology books for students the only reason why it might not be because the pearls in this book are still enclosed in the unlustrous oyster shell of a somewhat old fashioned format.

Few will need to know more about examination of the nervous system than is in the 69 pages of the first section and most neurology clinics could be coasted through with the aid of the middle section on common neurological problems. The novitiate neurological senior house officer would know more than which forms to fill in after reading the third section on neurological investigations. So there are pearls on every page but sadly many of the less clinically elegant competitors of this book may gain advantage on the bookstore shelves because the presen-

tation is by today's standards disappointing. There are no coloured boxes of helpful hints, although there are good illustrations of muscle testing, scans, and diagrams of patterns of sensory loss. The text is often in large unbroken lumps and it is possible that an impatient student used to the sound bites of a CD-ROM may not be attracted to what looks like an old fashioned book, notwithstanding the nice cover design. This would be a great pity since when read the text shines with a clarity which could only come from the pen of a master clinician whose great skill lies in understanding where people can go wrong in neurological assessment—for example, "The commonest cause of loss of reflexes is poor technique with a clumsy blow with a hard hammer, off centre, to the tendon of a muscle held tight by a frightened patient" or "... if the only abnormality ... is reflex asymmetry, care should be taken not to over interpret this finding—it may prove to be illusory".

Even battle hardened neurology senior registrars (while such a species continues to exist) would be well advised to read this book before teaching the undergraduates so as to discover the wood from the trees before leading their students to an over close examination of the bark. I will urge my students and senior house officers to actually read this book rather than flipping through the pages gathering multicoloured tips as they will want to do with other introductory books. In later editions, however, it might be wise to make a small acknowledgement to the times by packaging the text into smaller more appetising pieces so that less sedulous students can also taste all the delights of this book.

CHRIS ALLEN

SHORT NOTICES

Readers may be interested in: **Acquired Brain Injury in Childhood and Adolescence: A Team and Family Guide to Educational Program Development and Implementation** Edited by Alan L Goldberg. (Pp 247 \$54.95.) Published by Charles C Thomas, Illinois 1996. ISBN 0-398-06589-6.

Hand and Brain Edited by Alan M Wing, Patrick Haggard and J Randall Flanagan. (Pp 513 \$65.00.) Published by Academic Press, California 1996. ISBN 0-12-759440-X.

Intracranial and Intralabyrinthine Fluids. Basic Aspects and Clinical Applications Edited by A Ernst, R Marchbanks and M Samii. (Pp 300.) Published by Springer-Verlag, Berlin 1996. ISBN 3-540-60979-2.