Where the book shows its limits is for instance in its discussion of neurological issues. The section on "dementia associated with alcoholism" runs to 17 lines, and we are given just 10 lines on Korsakoff.

GRIFFITH EDWARDS

Mechanism and Management of Headache (fourth edition) By James W. Lance. (Pp 260; £17.50) Sevenoaks, Kent, Butterworth Scientific, 1982.

This is perhaps the best known book on the management of headache and is undoubtedly the standard text book. It is beautifully written with absolute clarity and is a model of good neurological writing. There is nothing that one can disagree with and it reflects the broad interest and expertise that Professor Lance has taken in this subject for many years. There is also, at the beginning of each chapter, an eminently apposite quotation which makes light reading. I cannot praise this book too highly and any neurologist who does not possess his own copy is missing out. Each edition is an improvement on the last and I look forward to the next one in the not too distant future.

F. CLIFFORD ROSE

Illustrated Guide to Malformations of the Central Nervous System at Birth. By Norma C. Nevin and Josephine A. C. Weatherall. (Pp 48; £8.95.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1983.

This trilingual book (English, French and German) is the product of a workshop on recording of central nervous system malformations held in Brussels in 1979 as part of the coordination programme of EURO-CAT (EEC Concerted Action Project/Registration of Congenital Abnormalities and Twins). It is aimed at helping "relatively inexperienced doctors, midwives and pathologists to make correct diagnoses of babies born with visible congenital malformations of the central nervous system."

The first page is devoted to acephalus and is an absolute gem of brevity and clarity. It consists of one sentence, "This disorder is extremely rare and is characterised by total absence of the head". There is no associated illustration. The remaining major malformations, which include anencephalus, iniencephalus, spina bifida, encephalocele, meningocele, cranium bifidum occulta, congenital hydrocephalus, arhinencephaly,

hydranencephaly, microcephaly, split notochord syndrome and sacrococcygeal teratoma are all lavishly illustrated by excellent colour photographs. There are also very brief and clear basic descriptions of each anomaly. The authors have also included an appendix which lists a broader range of congenital anomalies of the nervous system, together with a definition of them and synonyms used in the past.

If the non-specialists at whom this book is aimed can be encouraged to use it, it should certainly help to achieve the basic aim of uniformity and accuracy of nomenclature in children born with major nervous system malformations.

VICTOR DUBOWITZ

Pain, Analgesia and Addiction: The Pharmacologic Treatment of Pain. By Barry Stimmel. (Pp 326; \$56.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1983.

This book would have been better value had it been prepared for non-American readers. But in this American edition, the names of all drugs are American, and the English reader needs a list of English equivalents. Otherwise it is a useful book for anyone treating pain; it is practical and up-to-date.

It is written in the usual medical jargon, which is far worse on the other side of the Atlantic. For instance, the author writes redundantly of "motor movements"; and he tells us that "current consensus holds that peripheral information concerning a noxious stimulus is transmitted through many central nervous system pathways to many brain divisions". The many tables are good and there are a lot of references. The parts of the book on narcotic analgesics are very good, and there is a lot of useful information on drug interactions. The explanations of pharmacology and pharmacological actions of substances are clear. But in the chapters on the anatomy and physiology of pain, there is the common defect shown by workers from another field of stating assumptions as though they are facts and of giving results obtained from various species as though they have been shown to be true for man.

It is interesting to read about the taking of drugs in the United States. The American Medical Association Committee on Alcoholism and Addiction Council of Mental Health reported that in the 1960s, enough barbiturate tablets were given to supply every American citizen with 25 doses of 100 mg each. The author stresses

that dependence on narcotic drugs, nevertheless, is only very slightly due to doctors; and in fact the possibility of inducing addiction still looms far too large in the minds of doctors prescribing drugs for pain. There is no mention of Kosterlitz's use of the guinea-pig ileum for studying drug dependence and tolerance; nor of the treatment of narcotic addiction by electric acupuncture.

PW NATHAN

Cerebral Ischemia: Clinical and Experimental Approach. Edited by Hajime Handa, HJM Barnett, Murray Goldstein and Yasuhiro Yonekawa. (Pp 138; \$38.00.) New York: Igaku-Shoin Medical Publishers Inc., 1982.

This well produced little book contains the proceedings of a conference on cerebrovascular disease in Kyoto, Japan. The conference was held in connection with the International Extracranial/Intracranial Bypass Study and the contents reflect the preoccupation with those conditions which may possibly be treated by this technique: giant aneurysms, distal carotid and middle cerebral occlusions and arterial spasm following subarachnoid haemorrhage.

There are assorted experimental papers of no great relevance and reviews of medical treatment. More than half of the papers are by Japanese workers and it is interesting to note the differences in the clinical presentation of cerebral arterial disease in that country, notably the high incidence of middle cerebral atheroma and pulseless disease.

The book ends with the progress report on the bypass study by its organiser Dr HJM Barnett. Already over 1000 patients have been randomised for medical and surgical treatment and the results are expected in 1985.

RW ROSS RUSSELL