Book reviews

serves as a starting point for wider reading. However, in a book of this length the specialist cannot expect to find many new facts within his own particular field.

Some of the illustrations are of poor quality, but otherwise the book is good value for money.

PETER RACK

Amyloidosis. Edited by Jan Marrink, Martin H Van Rijswijk. (Pp 378; \$92.00.) Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic, 1986.

Amyloidosis has attracted increasing attention in recent years. Protein chemists have discovered the characteristic molecular structure of amyloid and various diseases, associated with extracellular deposition of this substance, have been the subject of intense scientific investigation. It has been realised that differences in chemical composition are reflected in the variety of clinical and pathological manifestations. The nervous system is particularly prone to be affected and its involvement ranges from the rare familial amyloid neuropathy to the common neurodegenerative disorder of Alzheimer's disease.

This book is, in fact, a Festschrift to Professor Enno Mandema on occasion of his retirement from the University of Groningen where he organised the First International Symposium on amyloidosis. The contents are divided into seven sections. The first gives a brief and illuminating introductory background which is followed by a section each on chemistry and ultrastructure, clinical aspects and pathogenesis. Separate sections are devoted to familial, senile and experimental amyloidosis.

The individual chapters vary in length and standard: a few are hardly more than extended abstracts, while others are concise, if not comprehensive, reviews. There are only a few chapters on the nervous system: one reviews amyloidogenic proteins in general, while three papers concentrate on Alzheimer's disease. The controversial issue of scrapie associated fibrils and their relationship to infectivity is briefly covered. The various types of familial amyloidotic polyneuropathies are meticulously discussed in two chapters. I particularly liked the chapters by Masters and Beyreuther and by Glenner and Wong: this preference perhaps reflects one's own interest. This book will be a useful guide for those who are interested in amyloidosis in general, but is lesser value for neuroscientists whose research centres on neurodegenerative disorders.

PL LANTOS

Stress and Coping in Time of War: Generalizations from the Israeli Experience. (Brunner/Mazel Psychosocial Stress Series Vol 7). Edited by Norman Milgram. (Pp 420; \$54.50.) New York: Brunner/Mazel Distrib: Raven Press, 1987.

This volume emanates from a conference held in Tel Aviv in 1983. Many of the papers have been revised since their original presentation. The writers are, with one exception, Israeli investigators.

Every war seems to involve the rediscovery of old facts about battle and its psychological casualties. Israeli experiences highlight, once again, the value of "front line care" and the finding that those who recovered and returned to active duty did not succumb again to any further stress reactions. The empirical data concerning these matters are presented as percentages rather than absolute numbers for reasons of military security. There are some useful accounts of the regimes followed in the forward treatment units, and also concerning the experiences of individual prisoners in a Syrian jail and the experience and aftermath of terrorist attacks or forced evacuation.

Many of the chapters are statements or reviews of theory. Apart from their local preoccupations, these chapters do not say anything very new. There is a useful final chapter summarising the findings and making recommendations for the future. As always, in such studies, the vital importance of that somewhat insubstantial but powerful force "group morale" emerges as one of the key factors of success in survival in very severe stress.

JLT BIRLEY

Tumours of the Nervous System. By TH Moss. (Pp 166; £88.00.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1986.

This ultrastructural atlas is organised in 24 sections. Each consists of a description of a tumour or a group of tumours and of a number of illustrations of their main ultrastructural features. A few references follow the text in each chapter.

The first eight chapters deal with benign and malignant gliomas and choroid plexus papillomas and are followed by others describing nerve cell tumours, meningiomas, schwannomas, neurofibromas, haemangioblastomas and germinomas. In the last six chapters the reader is acquainted with craniopharyngiomas, chordomas, pitu-

itary tumours, lymphomas, sarcomas and metastatic carcinomas.

The list of neoplasms included in this publication is fairly comprehensive, but I was disappointed to find that certain tumours which may be important in the differential diagnosis, such as melanoma, small cell "carcinoma" and paraganglioma, were omitted. In many instances the selection of tumours illustrated seemed arbitrary (for example six pictures of a choroid plexus papilloma, four of the myxopapillary ependymoma) and I have the impression that pruning some unnecessary pictures would have made place for other, perhaps more important tumours.

Generally, the fixation of tissues is good and only occasional fixation artefacts are noticeable. The quality of the pictures is variable; many of them are good, but some are too dark while, in others, the contrast is excessive. Moreover, the legends of a few pictures are questionable: I do not think fig 1.2 shows basement membrane; as for the "proliferation" of basement membrane of fig 4.4, I am not sure it is not proteinaceous material; and the normal collagen in fig 15.5 is not apparent. Also, in far too many instances legends are a mere repetition of the text. The legends could have been better used to increase the amount of information available to the reader.

Since this atlas was intended to be a "basic reference and diagnostic aid", I would have expected more space to be given to differential diagnosis. In fact there is little and, as in section 14, it is rather confusing.

On the whole the text is well written and the book is easy to read. The essential features of most tumours are clearly outlined and illustrated. In conclusion, I see this Atlas more as an approach to the ultrastructure of tumours of the nervous system, than an everyday diagnostic guide. The price seems high for a book of this size.

F SCARAVILLI

Visual Neuroscience. Edited by JD Pettigrew, KJ Sanderson, WR Levick. (Pp 448; £75.00.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986.

In the first week of September 1983 a symposium to record the contribution of Peter Bishop to visual neurosciences was held on Lord Howe Island a few hundred miles to the east of Australia. The contributions were given by those who had worked with or been