tures of brain tumours, haematomas and aneurysms, it does not assess any specifically headache-related radiological problems. Similar chapters in competing books have discussed the indications for CT scans in headache patients and the radiological findings in migraine.

This book, despite its shortcomings, contains a great deal of useful information, it is clearly presented with summaries at the end of each chapter, and is generally well referenced.

I hope the sixth edition contains far more radical changes. In the meantime this volume remains one of the standard works on headache. It will mainly be used by neurologists but also by ophthalmologists and general practitioners. It is a sad reflection on current medical textbook prices that £50 no longer seems exorbitant for standard reference works.

F SCHON

Cranial Nerves: Anatomy and Clinical Comments. By Linda Wilson-Pauwels, Elizabeth Jakesson and Patricia A Stewart. (Pp 177; £19.00.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific, 1988.

This book on the anatomy of the cranial nerves has been written by three anatomists and is designed for the student studying neuroanatomy for the first time. The book goes through each cranial nerve in turn and describes the anatomy including connections within the brain in a series of very clear drawings. The components of the nerves are colour coded so that their functional components can be easily recognised. Different colours for the pathways for special sensory, general sensory and visceral sensory functions are used and visceral motor, branchial motor and somatic motor are clearly shown similarly. The drawings, made by the first author, are very clear and the colour coding is very helpful in following the complicated connections of a nerve such as the facial nerve with its multiple components and complicated connections. The book is I believe designed mainly for those studying anatomy and though there are some clinical comments, these are rather brief and not always entirely accurate. Thus, the commonest aneurysm by far to produce a third nerve palsy would be one arising from the internal carotid artery, and a facial palsy would not be a common presentation of an acoustic neuroma. Given that the book is mainly directed towards students of anatomy the clinical information it gives is probably adequate but I think that the value

of the book goes beyond its use to medical students. I feel it could be of considerable value to neurologists and neurosurgeons who would find the clear drawings very useful for quick reference and verification of detailed anatomy learnt long ago. On that basis the book can be recommended warmly to clinicians and it is to be hoped that some additional clinical input into the next edition might make the book of even more value.

RD ILLINGWORTH

Primary and Secondary Brain Stem Lesions. (Acta Neurochirurgica Suppl. 40.) By Gyorgy Csecsei, Oskar Hoffmann, Norfrid Klug, Albrecht Laun, Robert Schonmayr, Jan Zierski. (Pp 130; DM 165.00.) Vienna: Springer-Verlag, 1988.

This 130 page book is supplement 40 of *Acta Neurochirurgica*. It is composed of six chapters which are loosely collated; all contributions are from the Neurosurgical Department of Giessen University. As stated in the foreword, the *raison d'être* for this supplement is that it was requested by the late director of the neurosurgical department in Giessen (Professor HW Pia) and is therefore dedicated to him.

The format of the book is very similar to *Advances and Technical Standards in Neurosurgery*. The quality of printing, photography and line drawing reproduction is consistent with Springer's usual high standard, although several tables and graphs have been published direct from inferior quality computer graphics.

The first two chapters (Schonmayr) concern effacement of the CSF cisterns with supratentorial and infratentorial mass lesions and clinical deficits associated with primary and secondary brain stem lesions. Both are descriptive and present a voluminous data that has little direct clinical relevance. In particular the latter chapter presents a mass of uninterpretable data concerning loss of brain stem reflexes. The cohort studied covers a heterogeneous group of neurosurgical patients who are studied with no reference to aetiology of the lesion, initial Glasgow coma score or Glasgow outcome scale. There is also no mention of the Liege coma score which has been found to be highly useful, and its contribution to the assessment of patients with severe head injury and brain stem insults. The third chapter again presents a mass of clinicoradiological data entitled "Acute Direct and Indirect Lesions of the Brain Stem — CT

Findings and Their Clinical Evaluation". Like the preceding chapters this is particularly difficult to evaluate, more so since the aim of the study is not stated. In view of the poor imaging of the brain stem with CT compared with MRI, characterisation of the lesions in the brain stem is extremely limited. The contribution of electrically elicited blink reflexes and brain stem auditory evoked potentials to clinical evaluation of patients with rhombo-encephalic lesions is presented in chapter 4. The authors conclude that these evoked potentials can provide useful information in brain stem but not cerebellar lesions. They also include an experimental study in cats evaluating the effects of raised intracranial pressure on the blink reflex. Despite presenting a well illustrated study, this chapter again suffers from being overwieldy and difficult to follow. An experimental study of changes in cerebral blood flow in various brain structures caused by raised intracranial pressure due either to inflation of an intracranial balloon or mock CSF infusion in cats, follows. This is a concise study that examines the effects of cerebral perfusion pressure and compartmentalisation of cerebral blood flow that occurs with raised intracranial pressure. No consistent changes in cerebral blood flow occurred with ICP less than 40 mm of mercury. At ICPs in the 40 to 60 mm range differential global and local changes in blood flow occurred. However, brain stem blood flow was preserved despite very high ICPs. The final chapter describes a biomathematical model of CSF dynamics and haemodynamics which to the non-mathematician will be extremely perplexing.

Overall this tome is disappointing. The burdensome language contributes to difficulties in comprehension of often confusing and voluminous data. Other than having excellent references (often to the neglected Franco-Germanic neurosurgical literature), there is little to recommend this poorly edited book. Byron (1809) wrote "Tis pleasant sure to see one's name in print". However, I do not think Professor Pia would be happy with this text which is dedicated to him.

IR WHITTLE

Psychiatric Aspects of Headache. Edited by Charles S Adler, Sheila Morrissey Adler, Russell C Packard. (Pp 387; £44.00.) London: Williams & Wilkins, 1987.

This is at first glance a comprehensive and well structured book devoted to an area that