

Book reviews

RADIOLOGY OF THE SKULL AND BRAIN, VOL. 2. ANGIOGRAPHY Book 1—TECHNICAL ASPECTS (266 pages), Book 2—ARTERIES (703 pages), Book 3—VEINS (403 pages), Book 4—SPECIFIC DISEASE PROCESSES (529 pages) Edited by T. H. Newton and D. G. Potts. (Pp. 1901; illustrated; £99.35.) Mosby: St Louis. 1974.

This work deals with all aspects of cerebral angiography and is a well-edited collection of contributions by 65 leading experts including the editors themselves. Everyone familiar with vol. 1 (*The Skull*) will recognize and appreciate the format and, in spite of the price, will need little exhortation to add this latest volume to his library. Book 1 deals with technical aspects in chapters on contrast media, direct puncture and catheter techniques, venography, radiographic projection, subtraction, magnification, and tomography. However, it is not solely of interest to neuroradiologists as there is an opening chapter on the history of the cerebrovascular system, and later chapters discuss postmortem angiography, anaesthesia, complications, haemodynamics, and the development of the cerebral vessels. Book 2 describes in detail the normal and pathological appearances of the arteries including the aorta, and the veins are similarly treated in Book 3. Book 4 is concerned with specific diseases and contains 12 chapters discussing such subjects as tumour circulation, arterial occlusive disease, collateral circulations, venous thrombosis, intracerebral haemorrhage, aneurysms, head trauma, and a section on comparative neuroradiological vascular anatomy of experimental animals.

There can be few questions relating to cerebral angiography which the practising neuroradiologist will not find answered in this book, and the text is amplified by numerous line drawings and over 3,500 illustrations which in most instances are presented, for maximum clarity, as subtraction prints. Every section is followed by a comprehensive list of references and each of the four books includes an index to the whole volume. The editors are well aware that computerized tomography will replace angiography to an extent as yet unknown, and indeed, they promise to include this new technique in a later volume. However, angiography is likely to remain the method of choice in the diagnosis of some conditions and an important supplementary source of information in many others and a thorough knowledge of the subject will therefore continue to be

essential. As the numbers of angiograms performed diminish, so will the opportunities for learning, and an informative text such as is provided by this book will become an indispensable part of the equipment of every neuroradiology department.

J. LESLIE STEVEN

SPINAL DEFORMITY IN NEUROLOGICAL AND MUSCULAR DISORDERS Edited by James H. Hardy. (Pp. 262; illustrated; £14.95.) Mosby: St Louis. 1974.

This is a most worthwhile publication, short and to the point, for which the editor has selected some of the leading American authorities as contributors. The pace and quality has been set by the key chapter on neurological evaluation (by T. L. Munset). Many of these numerous, but ill-understood, neuromuscular disorders have been named and identified from the pathological point of view, and some of the microphotographic illustrations are particularly commendable. Spinocerebellar degenerative diseases, motor unit disorders, muscular dystrophy, and neurospinal dysraphism have all been described.

Poliomyelitis has its own chapter, and quite rightly so, for it is from this pathology that much of the present-day understanding has been derived, particularly as to what muscle imbalance, discoordination, etc., can do to the spinal column. Although one can identify, determine the severity and its progress, and even treat these often very severe structural deformities of kyphosis and/or scoliosis, we still do not know the biomechanical factors behind their development, or indeed why they should occur. Therefore, present-day treatment is directed towards holding, and sometimes correcting, these grotesque curves, and thereby improve the quality of life for these most unfortunate patients.

The authors have clearly described how in poliomyelitis the disease entity becomes static but the scoliosis can progress, whereas in the other neuromuscular disorders, these in themselves are progressive, shortening function and life, as well as the scoliosis. Because of this one feature alone understanding of the disease patterns is essential for all those who have to care for these severely crippled individuals.

This book is strongly recommended and will prove a very worthwhile reference source.

ROBERT B. DUTHIE