

Book reviews

Advances and Technical Standards in Neurosurgery Vol 2 By H. Krayenbühl. Pp. 217; illustrated; \$3.30.) Springer: Wein, 1975.

This is the second of a series of publications edited by a group of distinguished European neurosurgeons. The object of the series is an attempt to overcome the lack of any organised common European postgraduate training system for young neurosurgeons and to make use of the English language as a means of communication of scientific information between Europeans. The second volume, like the first, admirably fulfils these ambitions. The first section on 'Advances' considers in very adequate detail three important topics. Computerised axial tomography with the EMI-scanner is dealt with in a concise but comprehensive fashion by the group at the National Hospital, Queen Square, who have been associated with this technique from the start. Professor Samii of the University of Mainz gives a clear account of modern aspects of peripheral and cranial nerve surgery, and there is an excellent account of the treatment of traumatic cavernous fistulas from the Neurosurgical and Neuroradiological Department of Hôpital Lariboisière, Paris.

The Technical Standards section consists of three topics of frequent and continuing interest to neurosurgeons dealt with by experts. Yasargil, Fox, and Ray describe every aspect of the operative treatment of aneurysms of the anterior communicating artery; Valentine Logue deals with the difficult problems associated with parasagittal meningiomas; and Siegfried and Vosnansky describe the technique of controlled thermocoagulation of the trigeminal ganglion and of spinal roots.

All these specialties are dealt with excellently and this handsomely produced volume should find space in the libraries of neurosurgeons and neurosurgical departments everywhere.

JOHN HANKINSON

Surgical Pathology of the Nervous System and its Coverings By P. C. Burger and F. S. Vogel. (Pp. 623; illustrated; \$45.) Wiley: New York, 1976.

This new book is an account of the

many disease processes that affect the nervous system and which are encountered as a result of biopsy or excision. Lest some people misinterpret the title of the book, it probably should be emphasised that it is not intended to be a conventional textbook of neuropathology, or even of neurosurgical pathology, and therefore does not deal, for example, with the pathology of raised intracranial pressure, head injuries or cerebrovascular disease.

The nine chapters are organised anatomically and include individual chapters on the skull and related soft tissues, the spine and epidural space, the region of the sella turcica, and peripheral nerves. This anatomical approach means that diverse neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesions occurring in a particular region are dealt with together rather than widely separated, and the reader will find this approach very helpful when seeking information about some lesion in the skull, for example, or one occurring near the pituitary fossa or in the pineal region. But this approach also produces certain problems: thus there is some repetition—for example, meningioma appears in several chapters, while intracranial Schwannomas appear in the chapter dealing with peripheral nerves. These minor anomalies are, however, of no real consequence since the authors have produced a really excellent and informative book that will undoubtedly be a valuable source of information to clinicians, general pathologists and neuropathologists alike for many years to come. The illustrations throughout also attain a very high standard.

HUME ADAMS

Epilepsy after Non-Missile Head Injuries 2nd edn By Bryan Jennett. (Pp. 179; illustrated; £5.00.) Heinemann: London, 1975.

This is the second edition of a work which has become a classic in medico-legal work. That is not to say that it is any the less of basic scientific value in relation to the behaviour of the injured brain. This edition includes an increased number of cases from the Glasgow area, and the opportunity of confirming the general conclusions in relation to a

somewhat different population. The statistical analysis is very detailed but presented in a comprehensive and intelligible fashion so as to make the book an essential source of information where practical decisions have to be made. The problem of epilepsy following head injuries is fully defined with illuminating reference to the literature and previous views on the subject. This book is necessary reading, and an invaluable reference for all those interested in the treatment and prognosis of head injuries, which will include not only surgeons and those in training, but our colleagues in the legal profession.

JOHN HANKINSON

Vision and Circulation Edited by J. Stanley Cant. (Pp. 338; illustrated; £8.50.) Kimpton: London, 1976.

This volume commemorates the William Mackenzie Memorial Symposium held in Glasgow in July 1974. The opening section is devoted to the cerebral circulation with particular emphasis on the control of blood flow. This is followed by consideration of ocular blood flow and the studies of experimental ocular ischaemia. The major clinical topics include manifestations of retinal and choroidal ischaemia and the important subject of retinal vein occlusion. The memorial lecture by Professor Anders Bill considers tissue fluid dynamics in the eye in relation to the circulation of both aqueous humor and blood.

This book is well produced with excellent printing and photographic reproduction, though it suffers from the omission of an index. Much of the work has been published elsewhere but readers will find this a manageable and informative book covering in breadth and depth a subject of major importance for all ophthalmologists.

MICHAEL SANDRIS

Spina Bifida for the Clinician Edited by G. Brocklehurst. (Pp. 195; illustrated; £5.50.) Heinemann: London, 1976.

Assisted by Sharrand, Forrest, and Stark—orthopaedic surgeon, paediatric surgeon, and paediatric neurologist

J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 1977; 40: 205-208