

Book reviews

Advances in Neurosurgery, Volume 4. Lumbar Disc, Adult Hydrocephalus Edited by R. Wüllenweber, M. Brock, J. Hamer, M. Klinger, and O. Spoerri. (Pp. 338; illustrated; DM76, \$33.50.) Springer-Verlag: Berlin, Heidelberg, New York. 1977.

The German Neurosurgical Society has in recent years published the proceedings of its annual meeting as a Congress monograph. While the brevity of each individual paper is inevitable in such a format, the concentration of the Society on at most two main themes in their Congress ensures a presentation of current German thinking on major neurosurgical topics. In this respect the present volume is no exception. The two themes discussed are the problems of lumbar disc and adult hydrocephalus. The report on no less than six series consisting of more than 1000 cases of lumbar disc disease approached by standard methods, and one collaborative series with over 3500 cases, must be unique in European literature. It is particularly valuable that this body of data is presented in conjunction with two reports of the newly developed and still somewhat controversial microsurgical approach to the lumbar spine. It seems clear that a considerably greater number of cases require to be analysed in relation to this new technique to assure the neurosurgical world at large that as high a proportion of satisfactory results and as low a proportion of recurrences will be available by this technique as with the proven although more traumatic extensive exposures.

The series of papers on normal pressure hydrocephalus presents the German view of the universally fairly confused situation regarding the diagnosis and indications for treatment of this condition. It emerges that in Germany, as elsewhere, long-term measurement of intracranial pressure showing some definite abnormality, in conjunction with a suggestive clinical picture and perhaps one of the other tests, such as Metrisamide cisternograms with CT, or the infusion test are employed by most clinics to differentiate those patients who are likely to benefit from shunting from those who are not.

There is a further section on free communications, including a group of three or four papers concerned with the effects of dexamethazone on head injuries, which is of considerable current interest. The volume also includes a brief tribute by Helmut Penzholz to the late Wilhelm Umbach, President of the Congress, whose untimely death is mourned throughout the neurosurgical world.

LINDSAY SYMON

Radiology of the Skull and Brain. Volume 3. Anatomy and Pathology Edited by T. H. Newton and D. G. Potts. (Pp. 335; illustrated; £37.45.) C. V. Mosby: St Louis. 1977.

This book presents the anatomical and pathological basis of the expanding science of neuroradiology with the same clarity and balanced high standards which have distinguished the other volumes of the series.

The normal and morbid anatomy, which correlates with radiological appearances, is well covered, and the authors present much recent work in this field which is not readily available in standard neuropathology texts.

An excellent chapter on the phylogeny and ontogeny of the ventricles by E. Leon Kier not only presents an enormous mass of knowledge in a way that stresses its relevance to the final anatomy and its variation, but also demonstrates the advantages of radiology in teaching these subjects. This chapter, together with those dealing with the modern concept of the physiology of cerebrospinal fluid by Gordon Potts and Daniel Gomez, and hydrocephalus and atrophy by Charles Hughes and Mokhtar Gado, are commended to students of anatomy and physiology.

The inclusion of allergic and demyelinating diseases, and the detailed consideration of parenchymal changes in vascular insufficiency and craniocerebral injuries cater admirably for the extensions of the neuroradiological field since the introduction of computed tomography.

Maximum use is made of diagrams and illustrations which are all relevant

and of good quality, and the references are up to date.

The work is essential reading for the study of neuroradiology, but the volume goes far beyond such basic requirements and should appeal to a much wider audience.

B. KENDALL

Movements of the Eyes By R. H. Carpenter. (Pp. 420; illustrated; £13.50.) Pion: London. 1977.

This book is a clear, well-documented and comprehensive account of the physiology of eye movement. It is addressed to medical students, physiologists, psychologists, and research workers. This range of readers might seem extravagant but it is justified by the exposition of fundamental principles and basic experimental findings placed in historical perspective.

The work is divided into three parts. In the first there is discussion of vestibular eye movements, tracking, saccades, vergence, and miniature movements. The second is concerned with the structure of extraocular muscles and central connections. The third part considers the system as a whole including proprioceptive input, eye movements, and vision. In the final chapter a synthesis is attempted. There are useful appendices on methods of measuring eye movement and system analysis. The depth of the study is confirmed by the 1100 references. There is an adequate index and the production of the book is of high quality. The diagrams are excellent.

Any neurologist who is fascinated by the physiology of vision and eye movement will find much illuminating discussion. As a guide to this field it could hardly be bettered. The book can be recommended most strongly to any library or individual seeking a single volume on this subject.

BRYAN ASHWORTH

The Brain and Regulation of Eye Movement By A. R. Shakhnovich. (Pp. 189; illustrated; £15.75.) Plenum Press: New York. 1977.

The author of this work from Moscow is described on the cover as a clinical