the pial vessels, the development of brain "oedema", and changes in the intracranial and cerebral venous pressures during acute hypertension. Dr Auer, in common with other workers, found that severe induced hypertension causes cerebral arteriolar dilation, an increase in cerebral blood flow and dysfunction of the blood-brain barrier. There is, therefore, increasing, if not conclusive, evidence that forced dilatation and over-distension of the cerebral resistance vessels and cerebral "oedema" formation are the pathophysiological basis of hypertensive encephalopathy.

This treatise contains a useful and informative account of the past and present knowledge in this field, and summarises that clinical significance of the experimental results at the end. It is well illustrated with some coloured figures and cites most of the relevant literature. This book is highly recommended to those with an interest in the microcirculation of the brain.

D. I. GRAHAM

Low Back Disability Neurosurgical, Orthopaedic, and Radiological Symposium Edited by B. R. Selecki. (Pp. 198; illustrated; \$A25.00.) Australasian Medical Publishing: Glebe, NSW. 1978. In 1934 Mixter and Barr, by publishing their classic paper, opened the way to the rational treatment of patients suffering from low back pain and sciatica. Nearly half a century later the syndromes arising as a result of degenerative disease of the lumbar spine can still present difficulty in management. Attitudes of orthopaedic surgeons and neurosurgeons to these problems often differ, and it is in an attempt to unify the clinical approach, as well as to improve our understanding of them that this monograph has been written. The major part of the text is the responsibility of experienced surgeons, particularly interested in spinal disorders who are ably supported by contributions from neurologist, pathologist, and radiologist. There is a wide discussion on all aspects of low back disability ranging from experimental work, through the clinical features, to a comparison of treatment techniques and their results. The radiological chapter is quite outstanding though somewhat marred by the quality of the illustrations. Interesting is the little use made of water soluble contrast myelography

at the time of this symposium when in the United Kingdom it had become quite standard. In the clinical sections there is a wealth of important information—the appreciation of which is sometimes difficult because of the design of the plates and tables which accompany the text. These are, however, minor criticisms of what is otherwise a most helpful and interesting presentation of the subject. The conclusions in the final chapter are wholeheartedly endorsed, particularly those concerning the need to train surgeons specially to deal with spinal conditions—unfortunately in my view a concept unlikely to gain wide acceptance, or support, in this country.

J. A. RUSSELL

Regional Cerebral Blood Flow By H. J. Gelmers. (Pp. 96; illustrated; D.fl 60.00.) Van Gorcum: Assen. 1978.

This volume has all the marks of a published thesis. It deals principally with the author's experience of measurement of cerebral blood flow in 64 patients using the methods developed by Lassen and his colleagues in Copenhagen—that is, a multidetector system for extracranial detection of gamma radiation after intracarotid injection of xenon.

The book is sadly out of date—for instance, there are only a handful of references dating after 1975. It might be of mild interest to those using similar methods, but the original papers by Lassen's group and by many other groups would be far more valuable and comprehensive. Unfortunately, there is little of scientific interest or clinical value to either the general reader or the expert in the cerebral circulation.

A. MURRAY HARPER

Sleep Disorders. Diagnosis and Treatment Edited by Robert Williams and Ismet Karacan. (Pp. 417; illustrated; £22.50.) John Wiley and Sons: Chichester. 1978.

This American volume is essentially a "state of the art" review of a number of sleep problems mainly from the point of view of clinicians involved in sleep research. The authors are in the main very eminent in the areas they have chosen to review, and overall it is a credit to the editors that the style is so harmonious although there are surprising omissions in some areas.

The book is divided into three parts:

(1) primary disorders consisting of insomnia, narcolepsy, and sleep apnoea syndromes; (2) secondary sleep disorders—in depressive illnesses and major psychoses including organic brain disease and in most medical and surgical conditions; (3) the use of the sleep laboratory in the investigation and treatment of impotence.

Inevitably, there is a great variability in the quality of the available data leading to some very full review chapters while other chapters consist of limited and recent experiments. However, it is a credit to the authors that the experimental data are explicitly stated so that generalisations are largely avoided. The main effect I found was a feeling of dissatisfaction with the apparent gaps in many areas but this is in its way a stimulant to research. In other ways the book presents a coming of age of sleep research confirming that there are now sufficient basic data on normal sleep to allow research to move towards the clinical fields increasingly. After all many of our patients die in their sleep!

I was particularly pleased to see a chapter discussing the behavioural approach in the treatment of insomnia which, if sufficiently successful on a large scale, would allow alternative to hypnotics.

The main snag in the volume is the cost which I think will prevent many individuals from using the book to advantage, but I must commend it to all interested readers.

J. I. EVAN

Tay-Sachs Disease: Screening and Prevention Edited by Michael M. Kaback. (Pp. 433; illustrated; \$45.00.) Alan R. Liss: New York. 1977.

This book contains papers given at the first international conference on Tay-Sachs Disease which was held in 1977 together with the discussions printed verbatim. In scope it ranges from the biochemistry and molecular biology to the religious significance particularly to the Jewish Community. The main emphasis is on the practicalities of heterozygote detection, antenatal diagnosis, and the impact of such programmes on communities and individual families. Experience is related from the United States, Canada, Israel, the UK, and South Africa. The book contains such

ficient fine detail for all aspects of management, particularly in the case of those working in the United States. Scientifically, it appears to be impeccable, although of course it represents a stage of knowledge which continues to expand—for instance, juvenile Sandhoff disease (combined hexosaminidase A and B deficiency in near preschool children with progressive cerebellar ataxia) had not yet been described at the time of the conference. Personally I found much of the material, including the discussions, unexpectedly stimulating. For example, one chapter discusses the hypothesis that the selective advantage of the Tay-Sachs gene may lie in resistance to tuberculosis in the heterozygotes, and gives the reasons based on Jewish history.

I suppose this is a book which will find its way more to libraries than to individuals, and in particular will be bought by those involved in the genetics, biochemistry, and counselling of hexosaminidase deficiency disorders, and by those thinking of organising screening programmes. It would seem that a very high gene frequency in a population and enthusiastic attention to all aspects of a screening service are necessary for any sort of success.

J. B. P. STEPHENSON

Manual for the Adult Neuropsychological Evaluation By D. Swiercinsky. (Pp. 191; illustrated; \$16.75.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1978.

This volume outlines a scheme for the testing of adult patients encountered in a neurological or neuropsychiatric hospital. It continues the important tradition of clinical neuropsychology established by Halstead, taken up by Reitan, Goldstein, and others, and it builds on the work of these pioneers to provide an entire system of tests and techniques to give the most comprehensive testing system yet available for the assessment of the psychological effects of damage to the brain.

The manual provides an outline of the tests employed in the programme together with the interpretative procedures and advice on the writing of reports. It gives much valuable information about the experience in the use of these tests over many years at the Tapeka Veterans Administration Hospital, and the factual data so derived are given in the form of norms against

which the performance of individual patients can be judged. It also deals with associated problems of formal and informal assessment, and provides useful background information on the development of the procedures.

This is an important source of information to all those interested in these particular procedures of psychological assessment but it could also be recommended widely to students for its clear and lucid expression of the issues involved, for its broad and sympathetic approach, and for its general philosophical emphasis, and also to those who have to learn how to deal with patients and to interview them in conditions where the personal consequences of the outcome for the future of the patient are considerable. Topics of wide general interest are included such as how to interview, how to deal with difficult patients, and how to ensure as much cooperation as possible.

The interest of the book also lies in the fact that in some measure it represents a progress report on the achievement of clinical neuropsychology itself. It seems extraordinary, for example from the standpoint of this volume, that brain damage was once seen as a unitary concept—able to be assessed in an all or none fashion or that “personality” evaluation was thought to be inappropriate to neuropsychological examination.

It seems equally clear to me that the emphasis placed until recently on diagnosis and the use of tests of this sort to localise brain damage has given ground to highly effective tomographic and other techniques of physical evaluation, and that the role of the neuropsychologist has changed. The author sees him as presenting a comprehensive picture of the patient's functional strengths and weaknesses, necessary to assess mental competency for social and legal reasons, to assess the potential for recovery, to assist in rehabilitation and retraining, and to help the patient to live as competent and as full a life as possible.

STUART J. DIMOND

The Art of Medicating Psychiatric Patients By J. R. Lion. (Pp. viii+149; illustrated; \$15.25.) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore. 1978.

In this unusual book, designed to be read in a few sittings, the author discusses the use of drugs in the treat-

ment of psychiatric disorders under three headings: thought disorders by which he means schizophrenia; affective disorders comprising depression, mania, and anxiety; behavioural disorders, including personality disorders, sexual offenders, hyperkinetic children, and alcoholics. His aim is to expose principles by means of the discussion of numerous clinical examples. He is not concerned with every possible drug nor with the minutiae of dosage. He is also at pains to show that psychotherapy and drug treatment are to be regarded as complementary.

Doctors who prescribe psychotropic drugs would benefit from reading this book and it is suitable for psychiatric libraries rather than for personal bookshelves.

J. L. GIBBONS

Editing Scientific Books and Journals By Maeve O'Connor. (Pp. 218; £7.00.) Pitman Medical: Tunbridge Wells. 1978.

This book, an ELSE-Ciba Foundation guide by the senior editor of the Ciba Foundation in London, is intended for editors and so readers will not require a comprehensive review. Nevertheless, it is worth drawing it to the attention of intending contributors as a good account of the problems of editing and journal production with explanation of some of the conventions used by journals. Awareness of these would be valuable for authors preparing their first papers, and for referees. There is also excellent advice on proof correction, editing of conference proceedings, copyright, and publisher's contract. It is a valuable book for occasional reference and a “must” for editors.

J. A. SIMPSON

Notice

An International Symposium on Clinical Applications of Evoked Potentials in Neurology will be held in Lyons, France on 16–17 October 1980. Free communications will be accepted. The official languages of the congress will be French and English. Further information may be obtained from: Secretariat Professeur J. Courjon, Service EEG, Hôpital Neurologique, 599 Boulevard Pinel, 69 394 Lyon Cedex 3, France. Tel: (78)53 81 81 poste 38.80.