Book reviews

Progress in Neurological Surgery 9 Microsurgical Approach to Cerebrospinal Lesions Edited by H. Krayenbühl, P. E. Maspes, and W. H. Sweet. (Pp. 386; illustrated; \$w/fr 196.00.) S. Karger: Basel. 1978.

This is a very practical and detailed presentation of the current practice and thinking of leading neurosurgeons in each of the topics discussed. Bypass procedures for cerebral ischaemia are presented in a detailed and critical fashion by O. Gratzl and colleagues. Yasargil *et al.* give a masterly account of the management of aneurysms of the internal carotid artery and its branches from a personal series of 726 cases, and Drake describes his personal experience of 408 patients with aneurysms on the vertebro-basilar circulation. The Parisian group of surgeons, Cophignon, Thurel, Djindjian, Rey, Viscot, Le Besnerais, and Houdart describe the investigation and treatment of cerebral AV malformations, and Hurth, Houdart, R. Djindjian, Rey, and M. Djindjian give a similar description for those of the spinal cord. A. J. Luessenhop deals with the intravascular approach by methods of embolisation, including AV malformations, carotid cavernous fistulae, glomus jugulare tumours, and haemangiomas of the face and skull. Fisch of Zurich and Ojemann and Crowell of Boston give excellently balanced accounts of the otoneurosurgical approach to acoustic neuromas and the microsurgical suboccipital operation.

These are all subjects of intense interest to neurosurgeons and the exploitation of new techniques over the last decade is described admirably. This is not a book for the beginner but all neurosurgeons will find it of great importance whether they are students of the subject or practising neurosurgeons.

JOHN HANKINSON

The Facial Nerve By Charles Diamond and Ivor Frew. (Pp. 283; illustrated; £12.50.) Oxford Medical Publications: Oxford. 1979.

Most monographs concentrate on disease processes. There are, however,

areas of anatomy where many interests overlap. The facial nerve is one where ENT surgeons, neurologists, neurosurgeons, facial-maxillary surgeons, and plastic surgeons are involved. There is, therefore, a real place for a book where one specialty can consult the role that other specialties can play and which provides a repository of information that may otherwise require looking into many texts. Diamond and Frew have taken a particular interest in this nerve and its disorders no matter their mode of presentation and have produced a good source book into all aspects. As a neurologist I was particularly impressed by the discussion on Bell's palsy but less so on plastic surgical manoeuvres involving nerve and muscle transplants where the physiological bases are insecure and results, at least here, not so successful. One of the drawbacks of such a book is that it does tend to be too comprehensive including such matters as treatment of multiple sclerosis, which are more appropriately (and better) treated elsewhere. And why is treatment given a chapter to itself when it would be much better included in the relevant sections?

ANGUS MCINNES

Cerebral Circulation and Stroke By L. C. McHenry. (Pp. 280; illustrated; \$22.50.) Warren H. Green: St Louis. 1978.

This author succeeds in the modest task he set himself—to provide an introduction to the literature on clinical stroke appearing over the last 10–15 years. Beginning with Kety's original paper he has concentrated on the developments in cerebral blood flow measurements in health and in patients suffering from cerebrovascular disease in recent times. This is the most useful part of the monograph to the reader coming new to the field. Less valuable are the chapters on the diagnosis and management of stroke and on treatment. This is not altogether surprising in view of the dearth of new advances in this field. The last chapter is devoted to the use of cerebral vasodilators in stroke and the author concludes on an optimistic

note on the future of serial measurements of cerebral blood flow in the management of stroke patients. There is no cynicism in the observation that optimism is an essential quality in this particular area of therapeutics.

E. C. HUTCHINSON

Physiological Tremor, Pathological Tremors, and Clonus Edited by J. E. Desmedt. (Pp. vii+216; illustrated; \$58.75.) S. Karger: Basel. 1978.

Tremor is an obvious phenomenon for analysis along simple engineering principles with electronic recording equipment. The characteristics of the different forms of clinical tremor have been recognised for many years, and much of the original work was published in this Journal. Unfortunately the later work still discusses some of the old ideas (with the added parameter of long loop reflexes), with each author selecting the facts that suit his concept. This book contains little that is new—some authors describe as their own "recent findings" data published earlier by others but not cited—but it is a useful compilation of most of the facts about biological tremor and its recording, and of the theories on mechanisms. It is the least satisfactory volume of the series *Progress in Clinical Neurophysiology* of which it is number 5 but it is a suitable starting point for new investigation.

J. A. SIMPSON

Spinal Muscular Atrophy: Infantile and Juvenile Type By Irena Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz. (Pp. 180; illustrated; \$9.00 in US, \$18.00 elsewhere.) Foreign Scientific Publications Department of the National Center for Scientific Technical and Economic Information: Warsaw, Poland. 1978.

This earnest and scholarly monograph reports the results of over 18 years of research at the Warsaw Department of Neurology on the spinal muscular atrophies and that information is complemented throughout by a comprehensive review of the world literature. There are a full 14 chapters in the book