

this book is extensive, particularly from the United States and from East and West Europe.

LS ILLIS

**The Year Book of Psychiatry and Applied Mental Health**, (pp 409 £29.50) Year Book Medical Publishers: Chicago 1979.

The current volume of this well-known series provides synopses of a larger number of papers on many topics in the general fields of psychiatry and related disciplines. Comments, sometimes on individual papers and sometimes on groups of papers, are made by the six editors, all of them senior and distinguished American research workers. Papers have been drawn from a wide range of English-language journals, but none from foreign-language journals.

The editors have had to be selective and in general they have chosen important or stimulating papers. There is good coverage of neurophysiology, biochemistry and pharmacology, child psychiatry, clinical psychiatry (with particular reference to conceptual models in psychiatry and to clinical aspects of schizophrenia), psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy. Some important topics get little more than token representation, while there is a very long section, including some not very important papers, on community psychiatry.

Within these limitations—and it would take a much larger volume to provide adequate representation of all the topics listed in the index—the book is a valuable source of easy reference to papers in psychiatry published in English up to Spring 1978. It can be warmly recommended to medical librarians.

JL GIBBONS

**Sphingolipidoses and Allied Disorders, Volume 1** M Adachi, L Schneck, B Volk, eds. (pp 260 £16.50) Churchill Livingstone, London, 1979.

The area of genetically-determined storage diseases of the nervous system is one of ever-increasing complexity in which new entities and variants of previously described disorders continue to be recognised. This small volume in

the Annual Research Reviews series under the editorship of DF Horrobin is concerned specifically with those disorders in which storage of sphingolipids is the principal change in the nervous system, and consists of twelve chapters dealing with the gangliosidoses, Gaucher's disease, Fabry's disease, Krabbe's disease, metachromatic leukodystrophy, lactosyl ceramidosis, Niemann-Pick disease, Wolman's disease, Refsum's syndrome, fucosidosis, mucopolipidosis and the sea-blue histiocyte syndrome. It is an unillustrated volume which first summarises existing knowledge on clinical, biochemical and pathological aspects of these disorders and then reviews recent advances made over the past five years or so. It is an exhaustive review with over one thousand references, which covers all aspects of these disorders including biochemical diagnosis, prenatal diagnosis, detection of the heterozygous state, and attempts at parenteral enzyme replacement therapy which appear to hold some promise in at least some of these conditions.

This book will be of interest to those who are directly involved in the field of inherited metabolic diseases but is unlikely to be of great value to the adult neurologist other than for occasional reference.

FL MASTAGLIA

**Mechanisms of Pain and Analgesic Compounds** (Miles International Symposium Series, 11th) Edited by Roland F Beers, Jr, and Edward G Bassett (pp 520, \$51.35), Raven Press, New York, 1979.

This book records the proceedings of a 3-day conference held at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in 1978. It comprises 40 contributions divided into sections: Recent clinical contributions to the understanding of mechanisms of pain and pain relief, an overview of the neurological significance of pain, endogenous substances having analgesic action, peripheral mechanisms of pain and analgesia, mechanisms of opioid analgesia and dependence, and new leads for the development of analgesics. Each contribution concludes with an extensive list of references, and each section with a critical discussion.

The title of the book is perhaps misleading. The book deals predominantly with theoretical issues, and clinicians working in a pain clinic will not find here a consideration of mechanisms for causalgia, phantom pains, referred pains, and other equally perplexing, painful conditions. Given, however, that this is a book mainly dealing with selected and theoretical aspects, it has many distinguished contributors provide articles mostly of a review nature—both important and timely in this rapidly advancing field. To this reviewer, particularly interesting contributions included Long's article of "Neuroaugmentation Procedures for Chronic Pain" and Goldstein's of "Endorphins and Pain: A Critical Review", but there is a wealth of information to be found in this book which, as the cover suggests, will certainly appeal to those working in diverse but related fields.

The book is well produced, with good index, and is reasonably priced. It represents a very useful and up-to-date review of much of the theoretical basis of pain and pain-relieving drugs.

GD SCHWARTZ

**The Concept of a Blood-Brain Barrier** By Michael Bradbury (pp 465, illustrated; £22.00) Chichester: John Wiley, 1979.

The blood-brain barrier has long been a fruitful source of confusion to basic scientists, clinicians, and examination candidates alike. Professor Bradbury, a major figure in barrier research, has written an excellent review of this intractable subject. He locates the barrier fairly and squarely in the cerebral capillary endothelium, where there is now respectable anatomical and experimental evidence to confirm it. After reviewing the precise diffusion characteristics of the major metabolites and drug groups, he concludes that the primary function of the barrier is to maintain cerebral homeostasis, rather than to exclude specific exogenous endogenous toxins. The weakest part of the book is unfortunately the first chapter, where the hopeful will no doubt begin their search for the fundamental truths. Although it contains first rate material, it seems confused, hazardous, and ineffectively illustrated,

that it fails entirely to bridge the gap between the average intelligent reader's grasp of brain structure and the more detailed material to follow. This is an indispensable book for the specialist, but it is by no means a primer.

JOHN SHAW DUNN

**Proceedings of the Second World Congress on Pain, Montreal, August 1978** (Advances in Pain Research and Therapy, Vol 3) Editors: Bonica, John J, Liebeskind, John C and Albe-Fessard, Denise G (pp 960; \$97.50.) Raven Press: New York.

This book comprises 89 of the papers presented at the Second World Congress of Pain in the autumn of 1978 at Montreal, under the auspices of the International Association for the Study of Pain. The papers are grouped into seven sections: pain related to peripheral nerve lesions; orofacial and head pains; endogenous mechanisms of pain inhibition; modulation of pain by afferent stimulation; low back pain; measurement of pain in man and animals; other pain researches and therapies. Preceding the individual papers is the text of Zimmermann's important review lecture delivered at the Congress on "Neurophysiology of Nociception".

The volume represents an outstanding summary of recent advances in the field of pain. Distinguished workers in this field, whose interests range from the most theoretical to the most practical, cover a wide range of topics. Individual contributions vary considerably in their nature, some being more in the nature of up-to-date, critical summaries (such as Bonica's article on causalgia), whilst others are briefer reports such as that by Cosyns and Gybels on their experience of electrical central grey stimulation in man). There can be few interested in the subject who will not find this book invaluable, if not essential, providing as it does such a large amount of information and discussion. It is well produced with a good index and, with almost a thousand pages, its appearance only a year after the Congress is a tribute to its three editors and publisher. It is costly, but not over-priced.

If anything detracts from the value of this or of any such publications,

it is the knowledge that the rapidity with which advances in this field are occurring will inevitably require the appearance of subsequent books of a similar nature.

GEOFFREY SCHOTT

**The Extrapyramidal System and Its Disorders** (Advances in Neurology Vol 24 Editors: Louis J Poirier, Theodore L Sourkes, Paul J Bedard (pp 529; \$51.35) Raven Press: New York. 1979.

This volume is a precise account of the proceedings of the VIth International Symposium on Parkinson's Disease held in Quebec in February of 1978 and faithfully reflects the tremendous surge of research interest into disorders of the extrapyramidal system consequent upon the introduction of levodopa. The contributions are grouped under the main headings of morphological and experimental approaches, electrophysiology of normal and abnormal motor activity, neurochemistry, neuropharmacology, biochemistry, immunochemistry, methods of assessment and therapeutic problems but many of the papers span more than one discipline. This cross fertilisation is so successful that the most insular of specialised neuroscientists may be intrigued by advances in an alien field of interest; the clinical neurologist cannot fail to be impressed by the accuracy and sophistication of research techniques currently employed in experimental neurobiology. Subtle electromicroscopic changes can now be correlated with histochemical findings; neurotransmitters and modulators of neural activity can be located with remarkable precision and the search for new pharmacological agents which might improve and prolong the benefits of levodopa continues to attract great interest. Despite the usual reservations concerning reported symposia this is a fascinating account of research in progress which emphasises the advantages of inter-disciplinary approaches. We have learned to expect a very high standard of content, presentation and editorial skills from the Advances in Neurology series and this handsomely produced book continues the tradition.

GERALD STERN

**Angiography in Cerebro-Arterial Occlusive Diseases** By G B Bradac and R Oberson (pp 228 ill: \$86.90) New York: Springer-Verlag. 1979.

This book is divided into two parts, text and illustrations. The text occupies 39 pages and there is a reference list of nine pages. The illustrations, however, occupy the last 169 pages. Most are reproductions of angiograms, but these are supplemented by a few well chosen CT scans of infarcts and a section of radionuclide pictures of patients with vascular occlusions.

Since the pictures provide the main part of the book, it is pleasant to record their excellent quality; many are devoted to arteriosclerotic disease at all levels. Every neuroradiologist in training would be rewarded by careful study of their content and captions. Experienced neuroradiologists will benefit, too, especially from the illustrations of rarer forms of arteritis, some of which are very hard to find in other literature.

Just one criticism should be offered. The certain identification of an "ulcerated" plaque would be a significant advance in diagnostic capability. There are arrows on some of the pictures pointing to what are said to be ulcers, obvious deep cavities. An ulcer in the thrombogenic sense, however, is no more than a region denuded of endothelium. It should be stated somewhere that we cannot yet recognise many of these by radiological methods.

The text is a summary account of the aetiology and macroscopic pathology of degenerative and inflammatory disease of the blood vessels, of angiographic hazards and technique, and of radiological appearances. There are short sections on CT and radionuclide studies.

The references are reasonably comprehensive and will be welcomed by more advanced students.

This is a helpful book for students of neuroradiology, especially beginners.

G DU BOULAY