

## Book reviews

tion on CT scan findings is included in this 3rd edition. However, in the United Kingdom, most district general hospitals do not have CT scanning available, so clear guidance on which patients requiring transfer to specialist neurological/neurosurgical centres would be helpful. In a book as comprehensive as this, there inevitably will be the occasional item to quibble with, but there are surprisingly few. This reviewer still has difficulty explaining to staff the critical difference between "vegetative state" and "akinetic mutism." The latter has historical reportability, but perhaps could be dispensed with, for the former is equally describable and covers others with similar extensive brain damage who are not necessarily immobile. This 3rd edition contains chapters on Brain Death, Prognosis in Coma, and Approach to the Unconscious Patient, none of which were included in the 1st edition. The chapter on Brain Death is particularly topical at this time, as patients and doctors attempt to recover from the sadly misdirected Panorama programme on the topic. The EEG occupies a prominent role in most American criteria, but the authors conclude that "In less legally demanding situations, it is doubtful that the experienced physician needs the EEG to tell him when the brain is dead." The chapter on Prognosis in Coma contains the analysis of outcome in 500 cases of acute medical coma drawn from New York, San Francisco and Newcastle upon Tyne. The data provide for the first time, some hard prognostic guidelines. For example, the chances of a patient in coma for 24 hours, not due to drugs, with both absent papillary and corneal reflexes making a useful recovery are virtually nil, whereas those unresponsive for three days yet still with preserved eye movements or localising motor responses still have about a 50% chance of making a good recovery. The quality of such guidelines will be improved by increased numbers of patients analysed, and shall prove invaluable to all concerned with the management of early management of the comatose patient, and should be compulsory reading for all concerned with such problems. Indeed, most will wish to purchase their own copy of this outstanding book, for you can be sure that the library's copy will never be on the shelf.

CD MARSDEN

**The Facial Palsies** Edited by Joseph Moldaver and John Conley (pp 235; \$35.75) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C Thomas, 1980.

Dysfunction of the facial musculature is of great importance in clinical practice, presenting the physician with an arduous test of his skill in both diagnosis and management. Any publication dealing with this complex problem is welcome, but unfortunately the present volume does little to assist the physician. The book is divided roughly into sections, dealing with anatomy of the facial nerve, mechanisms of peripheral nerve injury, diagnostic techniques, the clinical spectrum of facial disorders and therapy. Dr Moldaver has written the bulk of the book and an early chapter on racial variation of the facial musculature is interesting and novel, at least to the neurologist. Other chapters by the same author are, however, disappointing, particularly those relating to types of nerve injury and anatomy of nerve fibres where there are too many inaccuracies, eg on the morphometrics of the facial nerve. The chapter by Spencer compensates for this, but inevitably makes the book repetitive. The final two chapters by Graham and Conley which deal in detail with surgical anatomy are also of considerable merit.

The reader wishing to obtain insight into the problem of the aetiology of facial palsies will be disappointed. For example sarcoidosis is merely mentioned in a table of causes of VII nerve palsy, and there is no discussion of this important condition. Equally the section on the genetic causes of facial weakness is totally inadequate, there being no mention of the hereditary neurogenic disorders and only superficial discussion of the dystrophies. Abnormal movement disorders are discussed in a sketchy and incomplete fashion and there is the annoying etymological uncertainty in the section on hemi-facial spasm as to whether half the face is contracting or the whole face is in hemi-spasm. This is not the only section where the use of a dictionary by the proof reader would have been of benefit. The section on diagnostic methods is incomplete and unbalanced, far too much space being devoted to rheobase and chronaxie measurement and not enough to other electrodiagnostic techniques, let alone the omission of the stapedius reflex

mentioned only in the index. Medical therapy of idiopathic palsy is barely mentioned. In conclusion although there is a need for a definitive treatise on the facial palsies, this book does nothing to fulfil that end and it cannot be recommended to the student of clinical medicine.

PETER RUDGE

**Cluster Headache: Mechanisms and Management** By Lee Kudrow (pp 151; £12.50) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1980.

Few diseases have attracted so many synonyms and eponyms as cluster headache; yet it remains a condition which still often eludes diagnosis when its victim first arrives at the neurologist's clinic. Lee Kudrow has amassed considerable experience of headaches in his private Medical Clinic for Headache in California. In this book, some 150 pages and eight chapters long he records his own clinical experience, he describes a number of original investigations carried out in the clinic, and, he sets his experience against a very thorough review of the literature.

The subject has been covered before, both in reviews and in migraine texts; but so far as I know this is the first monograph in English exclusively devoted to this "particular variety of headache." Successive chapters cover classification, epidemiology and clinical features; there is an interesting section which tells that these patients are taller, have a tendency to hazel eyes, smoke and drink more, but mercifully have similar occupations and psychological personality profiles to the rest of us, thus contradicting Graham's seductive vignette—"mice living inside lions."

There are excellent chapters on the various pathophysiological disturbances mooted as explanations for the syndrome and on treatment. British workers are less familiar with the chronic variant of the disorder which should surely be known as Chronic Migrainous Neuralgia rather than "Chronic Cluster"—a dreadful self-contradiction. We learn of the value of inhaling oxygen in acute attacks, and of the author's enthusiasm for courses of prednisolone and also of lithium, especially useful in the chronic variety of the disorder. This book is a good review of current knowledge of

the subject, but the unexplained variation in numbers of the "total" of Kudrow's series in different tables makes interpretation of his own data rather difficult—a pity, since he obviously has studied large numbers of patients. The writing too, lacks a little in consistency and grace, such designations as "cluster-vertigo," or worse, just "cluster" not readily endearing themselves to the reader. Typographical errors, for example, Nueralgias, syncope, and horror of horrors Symonds, CA irritate rather than diminish the overall value of the book.

Kudrow is to be congratulated on producing a valuable and comprehensive review. I hope it runs to future editions and that it is provided for trainees in all departmental libraries.

JMS PEARCE

**Monographs in Neural Sciences. Immunological Aspects of Neurological Diseases** By JA Aarli and Olav Tonder. Series editor Maynard M Cohen (pp 190; \$58.75) New York: S Karger, 1980. In many ways "Immunological Aspects of Neurological Diseases" is the best book on the subject that has yet been published. Rapid accumulation of information over the last few years has allowed the authors to discuss a wider range of diseases that affect the nervous system than before. Clinical and pathological summaries are followed by systematic presentation of evidence relating to the immunology of each disease. More is known about some diseases than others but the allocation of space also reflects a balance between clinical importance and the availability of reviews elsewhere so that this book is a concise but comprehensive account (with over 750 references up to 1979) of present knowledge about immunology and the nervous system.

In other ways the book is less successful. By failing to emphasise or interpret certain observations and by omitting summaries of chapters or the book as a whole the authors have failed to guide the unfamiliar but interested reader through the maze of incomplete and often conflicting information in which it is difficult to distinguish causative abnormalities from epiphenomena. In the two introductory chapters on general properties of the immune system and its relationship to the brain it is

also difficult to identify basic concepts in the many facts presented. The authors have anticipated these criticisms in their preface where they plead that neuroimmunology is in its infancy and that interpretation is not yet possible. The price of this limp cloth bound book may deter individual buyers but whilst the subject is evolving, library copies will be deservedly well thumbed.

DAS COMPSTON

**Neuro-Ophthalmology** Edited by S Lassell and JTW Van Dalen (pp 401; \$78.00; Dfl 160.00) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica, 1980.

Each of us has a different way of keeping up with the literature. For the full time neuro-ophthalmologist (and I know of only one in the UK) there should be no difficulty in going through neurological journals and picking out those papers of ophthalmological interest but, for the rest of us, this book does the work and culls the literature brilliantly. It is divided into seven sections: the visual system, the ocular motor system, the pupils, ocular manifestations of neurological diseases, the orbit, stroke and migraine, and diagnostic methods. There are 34 contributors of international reputation who review different aspects of these subjects, a task made easier by screening the neuro-ophthalmological literature from the Excerpta Medica Data banks. Their methods are eclectic and vary from an idiosyncratic essay to a complete review of recent publications, some including the years from 1974 to 1979.

The result is an exceptionally comprehensive account of recent developments in the field and will be of time-saving value to those interested in neuro-ophthalmology, which must surely include all neurologists and ophthalmologists.

F CLIFFORD ROSE

**Therapeutics in Neurology** By Donald B Calne (pp 411; £22.50) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1980.

At the turn of the century when general medicine had progressed little further than boiling foxgloves in a cauldron, neurology was making rapid scientific advances into the understanding, classification and specific diagnosis of diseases. As therapeutic measures became available for the treatment of

cerebral dysrhythmia, infection, vitamin deficiencies, syphilis, etc, so these conditions were more and more seen and treated by the general physician who was rapidly attempting to reverse the feeling of inferiority engendered by the early neurologists who had lost little opportunity of pointing out their own expertise. Conversely, the general physician has never drawn back from pointing out the error of the neurologist's way: the practice of elaborate diagnosis of obscure and incurable disease in the most expensive way possible. Neurologists have also been at fault in withdrawing from acute neurology. It is therefore a delight to read this excellent book of Dr Calne's. The book contains chapters on established forms of medical treatment, and neuropharmacological developments which have therapeutic implications in diseases of the nervous system.

The first section deals with neuropharmacology including the blood-brain barrier, neurotransmitters, neuromodulators and neurohormones, and drugs which affect transmission. There is an excellent section on evaluation of treatment but one would have liked a more detailed discussion of trial design and placebo effect. The second section of the book deals with treatment of various neurological disorders and the third section entitled "Treatment and Consequences of Neurological Disease" deals with topics such as epilepsy, Parkinsonism, dyskinesia, myoclonus, spasticity. The chapters on these topics are excellent and can be strongly recommended both to medical student and practising neurologist. The author is to be complimented not only on producing such a useful book, but in helping to allay the unfair criticism of non-neurological colleagues secure in the knowledge of their therapeutic successes with chronic bronchitis, atheroma, heart disease, chronic liver disease, kidney disease. . . !

This book is certain to run into many editions. It would be helpful to have a larger section on the treatment of pain—particularly the facial pains which are such a common part of neurological practice and often so difficult to manage. Treatment of raised intracranial pressure could be dealt with in more detail but these are minor criticisms of a thoroughly good book.

LS ILLIS