

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