Cerebrospinal Fluid in Diseases of the Nervous System  

This book fulfils a need for neurologists bringing together the recent advances in knowledge of fluid changes in neurological disease. It is nicely balanced with one half of the book devoted to anatomy, physiology and intracranial pressure and the other half dealing with the normal composition of the cerebrospinal fluid and to changes recorded in disease of the central nervous system.

The section devoted to physiology gives an excellent resume of present knowledge of formation and absorption of CSF, including the evidence for active transport at choroid plexus level. The blood brain barrier in health and disease, together with the important pharmacological aspects of substances known to affect it are well done. The chapter on the performance of lumbar puncture and the complications thereof should be required reading for residents coming fresh to the investigation of patients with neurological disease. The description of changes of the cerebrospinal fluid in disease is exhaustive. Over 160 conditions are considered and, where appropriate, discussion of the abnormalities noted is invariably lively and helpful.

This will be a welcome addition to any neurological library.

EC HUTCHINSON

Addiction and Brain Damage  
Edited by Derek Richter (pp 305; £15.95) London: Croom Helm, 1980.

Alcohol and drug related problems are on the increase and in recent years interest has been focused on the mechanisms underlying dependence and tolerance. The advent of computed tomography has also made it possible to evaluate morphological changes in the brains of alcohol abusers. This timely volume contains the proceedings...