

P Alexander. (Pp 194; DM 59.) Springer-Verlag: New York, 1981.

This book is one of a series on disorders of human communication. It is written by three neurologists, a neuropsychologist and a speech pathologist, all working or trained at the Boston University Aphasia Research Center. Each has reviewed the sections written by the others, so there is little repetition, and the text shows an unusual integration of the different disciplines, allowing each a revealing look at the others' thinking. The book is a broadly based practical account of the subject, structurally orientated though not dogmatically so, and not neglectful of the fact that many dysphasics do not fit neatly into any rigidly defined diagnostic category. Almost a quarter is devoted to treatment and rehabilitation, a contentious subject here boldly approached and well reviewed. There is also an interesting chapter on aphasiological curiosities—crossed dysphasia, and dysphasia in polyglots, left handers, deaf mutes and demented subjects.

This is a good book and will have a wide appeal within the speciality. The practising clinical neurologist with an interest in cerebral function, the neuropsychologist, the neurolinguist, the speech pathologist and therapist should all find it invaluable.

JOHN C MEADOWS

Angiography of Spinal Column and Spinal Cord Tumors. By Rene Djindjian, JJ Merland, M Djindjian, P Stoeter. (Edited by M Najmi). (Pp 258; DM 220.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1981.

In his classic treatise "*Angiography of the Spinal Cord*" published in 1970, Professor Djindjian included a section on angiography of neurogenic tumours and tumours of the vertebral column, based on rather limited material. Since that time at the Hôpital Lariboisière spinal angiography has become a routine procedure for study of spinal tumour and the authors have accumulated material sufficient to formulate a clear idea of the diagnostic and therapeutic advantages of the method and to assess its future place in routine practice.

In a brief introduction the blood supply of the spinal cord and vertebral column are reviewed and there is a valuable summary of the conduct of spinal angiography indicating which arteries should

be injected in the investigation of tumours in various locations; otherwise technique is not discussed but is covered by a good selection of references. The main part of the book is divided into two parts dealing respectively with spinal cord tumours and tumours and other lesions of the vertebral column. Most of the first part, indeed one third of the book, is concerned with a detailed study of neuroradiology in intraspinal haemangioblastomas and their differential diagnosis including an excellent and beautifully illustrated section on Von Hippel-Lindau disease. The prime importance of angiography in diagnosis and localisation of haemangioblastomas is stressed and its value for preoperative embolisation in selected cases and in following the progress in Von Hippel-Lindau disease is emphasised.

In ependymomas and neuromas angiography shows the size, location and the extent of the tumour and the relationship of the vessels supplying the spinal cord; its value in planning surgical approach is evident but it is only occasionally necessary for diagnosis. Spinal tumours account for less than 1% of subarachnoid haemorrhages, the usual origin being an ependymoma of the cauda equina; the authors present the first report on experience with spinal angiography in tumoral subarachnoid haemorrhage based on a series of five cases. A little under a third of the section on the spine deals with vertebral haemangiomas in which the vascular pattern may be pathognomonic. In most other conditions the angiographic appearances are not stereotyped and it cannot replace histology in differential diagnosis though distinction between benign and malignant conditions is frequently evident. Again, the main value of angiography is for pre-surgical localisation of the cord vessels and for embolisation.

Most surgeons and neuroradiologists rely on the combination of conventional radiology and myelography for the management of masses other than haemangiomas and the addition of computed tomography to more accurately assess bone involvement and soft tissue extension is a further advantage. It is perhaps as well that limitations of angiography have been demonstrated since routine application to spinal lesions would be impractical. The text is concise and well written. The illustrations are superb and the material on which it is based must be virtually unique. It is recommended to all seeking guidance on the place of spinal

angiography in the management of tumours of the spine.

BRIAN KENDALL

Anxiety. New Research and Changing Concepts. Edited by Donald F Klein and Judith G Rabkin. (Pp 325; \$40.12.) New York; Raven Press, 1981.

In 1959, Donald Klein, an American psychiatrist, "was studying the clinical effects of the mysterious, new, and as yet unmarketed drug imipramine". As well as confirming that imipramine had novel antidepressant effects, Klein and his colleagues noted that patients with episodic panic attacks—mainly agoraphobics—also improved markedly. These observations could not be set into the then current American ideas, mainly psychoanalytic, on anxiety, and the observations had the impact of a lead balloon. Now, over 20 years later, the effectiveness of "antidepressants" in treating panics has been amply confirmed and has led to reconceptualisation of the phenomenology and nosological status of episodic anxiety. This book comprises the papers and discussion presented at the Seventy-first Annual Meeting of the American Psychopathological Association and in a way represents a tribute to the clinical and research skills of Donald Klein.

The book contains five sections dealing with Psychopharmacology and Anxiety, Genetics, Basic Science Aspects, Psychological Aspects, and Research Communications on Anxiety. The 28 chapters are a mixture of research papers—some good, some bad, some indifferent—review articles, again variable in quality, and theoretical papers. The book is badly organised with no logical progression through the chapters: it should be dipped into and not waded through. The discussion appears to have been only lightly edited, if at all, and contains the typical stream-of-consciousness prolixity of American symposiasts.

The book is very useful to the specialist clinician and researcher interested in anxiety, particularly of the episodic form. It does not comprise an overview of the topic but concentrates on the biological and therapeutic aspects. It is well-produced, not expensive by modern standards, and well-indexed. But a book for libraries and cognoscenti.

MH LADER