Book reviews

The volume is beautifully produced. Connoisseurs of the misprint will be delighted on page 127 to find a major class of synaptic junction described as "ano-axonal". Research workers in epilepsy still utilise profitably the volumes on Basic Mechanisms (1969) and Experimental Models (1972). It is very much to be hoped that this volume will be superseded in the near future.

BS MELDRUM

Sleep 1980. Edited by WP Koella. (Pp 461; \$148.50.) Basel: S Karger, 1981.

This is not a literate book but a published congress proceedings with well over 100 different articles. The choice of topics is very wide and includes reports on internal coincidence models for sleep deprivation and depression, circadian rhythms in rats and phase-shift models of spontaneous internal desynchronisation in humans, preliminary analyses of the function of psychological dreaming, pre- and post-synaptic effects of yohimbine on rat paradoxical sleep, and automatic sleep classifiers (for cats). These we are told combine extreme hardware modularity and modifiable truth tables. The text is often trivial; typical examples include statements such as that the EEG is a poor index of body restitution; that in a previous publication the age of patient No 11 was given erroneously as 30 instead of 31 years; that the most frequent clinical manifestations of sleep drunkenness are neocerebellar (89.4%) and paleocerebellar (84.2%)—in eight patients. The description of thirty-four young adult females who spent three nights in the sleep laboratory does not compensate for all of this. The critical reader will often find it hard or impossible to evaluate conclusions such as appear on page 375—"this paper has endeavoured to show in Chomskyan terms how the model Freud presents in the Traumdeutung for the generation of syntactically grammatical and varied utterances in dreams is consistent with his overall dream model, thanks to his radically downgrading—despite apparently contrary linguistic performance evidence—the functioning of secondary process linguistic competence in primary process dreaming". A great deal of interest is going on in sleep research. However the format of this work makes it impossible to evaluate what is good and discard the rubbish. In the introduction the editor rebukes congress

participants who did not submit a manuscript. Surely they should be congratulated.

JD PARKES

Neurological Anatomy in Relation to Clinical Medicine (3rd Ed.) By A Brodal. (Pp 1053; £25.00). Oxford University Press, 1981.

It is a pleasure to welcome the third edition of this great work. The first edition was a constant companion throughout my neurological training. It was a comparatively slim volume, which was a delight to handle and read. Twenty years later came a second edition and now ten years after that, a third. The text of the latter is as fascinating as ever, but it is now three times as long and becoming difficult to balance on the knees when lying flat! This considerable increase in size reflects the pace of neuro-anatomical research in the last decade. New techniques have flourished. Fluorescent methods of identifying brain monoamine systems were rapidly followed by widespread use of horseradish peroxidase methods for retrograde labelling cells of origin of fibre pathways, and labelled amino acid techniques for anterograde identification of the destination of fibre pathways. Now we have the incredible powerful techniques of anatomically identifying the whole of a single neurone studied electrophysiologically and then filled with horseradish peroxidase, and double labelling methods whereby injection of two different dyes into different areas can identify the collateral projections of a single nerve cell. Armed with these powerful methods, neuro-anatomy has flourished and the size of this third edition reflects such advance. It is extensively referenced up to and including publications in 1979. Professor Brodal acknowledges that it is now virtually impossible for a single author to cover the entire field, so has recruited his son, Per Brodal, to revise the section on the peripheral motor neuron, Eric Rinvik who has revised the section on the optic system, and Kirsten Kjelsberg Osen who has revised the section on the auditory system. Per Brodal and Rinvik have revised the section on the somatic afferent pathways, and Alf Brodal and Rinvik have tackled the section on pathways mediating supraspinal influences on the spinal cord, including the basal ganglia. Inevitably my attention turned to the latter, where I was delighted to read "it is the author's firm conviction that neither theoretically nor

practically is a useful purpose served by retaining the term extrapyramidal". The new anatomy of the basal ganglia, worked out in detail in recent years, is presented lucidly and rationally. Throughout, the text is illustrated by clear line diagrams and occasional histological plates. One of the delights of this work has always been the accurate description of the clinical consequences of anatomical damage in different parts of the brain, and the careful clinico-pathological correlation of neurological disease. In this third edition, such correlation now extends to inclusion of biochemical and pharmacological data where appropriate. The book is a true compendium of neuro-science related to clinical neurology, and promises to give as much or even greater pleasure than the earlier editions. My only problem will be to find the time to read through the whole book.

CD MARSDEN

Stroke, The Facts. By F Clifford Rose and Rudy Capildeo. (Pp 143; £4.95.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981.

The fact that stroke is the third largest cause of death in developed countries and a major cause of disablement in survivors justifies this book which aims to explain to sufferers, their relatives and other interested people, what is involved in a stroke. A simple account of the pathogenesis is given followed by a description of what happens in the first days, weeks and months. This description is embellished by frequent short case histories describing precisely what befell individuals including such mundane, but stress producing events, as the failure of an ambulance to arrive. The roles of many people who care for stroke patients is explained and indications about types of treatment given. The book is graced by a foreword by Sir Peter Medawar who himself suffered a stroke. It can be recommended to patients and their relatives.

JOHN MARSHALL

Sensory Neurography. By Hans-Peter Ludin and Wolfgang Tackmann. (Pp 124; DM 48.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1981.

This monograph on sensory neurography is intended to supplement the standard textbooks, of electromyography, and certainly there is a great deal of infor-