abnormal arm reflexes. I defy any English student, neurologist or professor to describe the Marinosco-Radiovic, Marie-Foix, Dagnini, Mendel-Bechterew, Rossoimo, Hoffman, Trommer, Gordon, and Chaddock sign without recourse to the text. However this exemplifies the exact detail of Mancall’s revision. The third section describes the topical diagnosis of neurologic disease—the competition here must be the superb account given in the various sections of Harrison’s text book of Medicine. The book ends with a description of laboratory investigation, up to date and well-illustrated including many CT scans. Indeed the figures and illustrations throughout are excellent, well chosen and relevant. The book has not got the flair of Rubenstein and Wayne’s Lecture Notes on clinical medicine, or the wisdom and style of Bickerstaff’s Neurological Examination which must remain the outright winner. However Alpers and Mancall is a close second.

JD PARKES


This book consists of 89 contributions by 97 authors on some aspects of anatomy, physiology, pathology, clinical diagnosis and treatment of various disorders affecting the cranial nerves, originally presented as a symposium in Hanover in June 1980. The chapters vary in length from one to 24 pages and also show some variability in content, ranging from extensive personal experience or authoritative review to a concise case report. The emphasis is on surgical treatment, and in particular the advances achieved in neurosurgery by increasing use of the operating microscope. Surgical topics emphasised are the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia and hemifacial spasm by decompression of vascular loops at the brainstem, but alternative destructive methods of treatment are also discussed. There are several contributions on the treatment of acoustic neuromas, comparing different surgical approaches, results of attempts to conserve facial nerve and also auditory nerve function, and describing methods of restoring facial movement when the nerve has been lost. There is a long detailed section with extensive bibliography on the functional anatomy of the trigeminal nerve and its central connections, and interesting sections on olfactory and gustatory testing. The book is slightly marred in places by curious use of the English language, which is sometimes difficult to understand, and also by occasional typesetting errors, unidentified abbreviations and incomplete figure captions. However, the book contains much that will interest neurologists, neurosurgeons and allied disciplines, and a useful statement of the present position in a rapidly changing field of surgery.

RD ILLINGWORTH


In his Foreword the President of the International Rehabilitation Medicine Association affirms his Association’s hope that this book will provide an exchange of information and inspiration between developed and developing countries.

It is a little book full of strange and striking contrasts. Wing Bennett and Leff expound in familiar terms the highly sophisticated state of the art of rehabilitating people with schizophrenia in Britain. Authors from WHO and Asia lament the formidable barriers to delivery of almost any form of treatment to people with depression. For example Wig and Murthy write from Chandigarh “Limitation of economic resources, lack of psychiatric trained personnel, a virtual absence of any form of organised psychiatric facilities for vast rural areas, prevalent ignorance and superstition about mental illness in general populations are some of the main problems in developing countries like India”.

We are reminded more than once that Western models of caring systems don’t transplant successfully to developing countries, because of cultural and other differences. Asuni from Ibadan describes some of these. Nigerian depressives are not treated like invalids but are expected to participate as much as possible in household chores and other community activities. The outdoor life, the extended family grouping, relative absence of loneliness, low level of competitive striving and general tolerance of failure all contribute to a very low suicide rate. ECT is used liberally and often requested and for lack of anaesthetists is usually given unmodified.

About £9 is a lot to pay for this paper back even though it is attractively printed and produced. What is there to explain these many spelling mistakes throughout and such quaint English in places. If it sells well enough overseas to go into a second edition its readability could be improved by better proof reading and some judicious sub-editing.

ROGER MORGAN


Concepts of cerebral localisation have dominated thought on the functions of the cerebral cortex for generations. This volume reports the impact of the new techniques of neuroscience on the problems of cerebral localisation, as set forth in a symposium on the topic held in Phoenix and sponsored by the Barrow Neurological Foundation. Ten chapters, which presumably were lectures, deal with selected topics emphasizing “recent developments and new information”. Angevine and Smith discuss the “new anatomy” of the forebrain, as elucidated by the techniques of neuronal identification utilizing horseradish peroxidase and labelled amino acids. Bizzi and his colleagues discuss central and peripheral mechanisms in motor control. Pollen and Ronner describe the role of the visual cortex in spatial pattern recognition. Merzenich looks at the organisation of the primate sensory forebrain in the light of the new information of multiple cortical sensory representation and parallel thalamocortical pathways, revealed by the modern anatomical and physiological techniques. Chippa describes the localisation of visual, auditory and somatosensory evoked responses. Retzich reviews the use of cerebral blood flow and metabolic studies in cerebral localisation, while Raichle gives the early results of the use of positron emission tomography. Ojemann reviews the interrelation of language, memory and motor mechanisms in the human cortex and thalamus, based upon studies of the effects of stimulation at operation. Rasmussen discusses aspects of localisation as revealed by epileptic seizures, while Sweet reviews the cerebral localisation of pain. The work of many of these authors is already well known from their previous publications, and little new is produced in these review chapters. The volume will be a valuable record of the meeting which gave rise to the publication, but it is unlikely to prove of lasting value. So many of the topics under discussion are developing so rapidly that the information given here will soon need to be revised.

CD MARSDEN