

are sound and instructive. Segmental regeneration is especially well described. The few inadequacies can easily be rectified in the future, such as the replacement of the illustration of polyarteritis nodosa and the definition of type 2 fibre atrophy as 2b when appropriate.

All considered, it is safe to predict a bright future for this work.

DGF HARRIMAN

Cerebrovascular Disorders. 3rd ed. By James F Toole, with additional chapters by HJM Barnett, Vladimir Hachinski, Mark Mumenthaler, J Stanwood Till. (Pp 446; \$72.70.) New York: Raven Press, 1984.

A photograph of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin at Yalta in 1945 prefaces this book with the suggestion that had not all three been suffering from cerebrovascular disease the history of the post-war years might have been different.

The book is a straight-forward text of cerebrovascular disease covering anatomy, physiology, pathology, clinical features and management. It is clear, easy to read and extremely well illustrated. Enumeration and tabulation of important points makes the book a good practical guide. Each section ends with a discriminating bibliography. On controversial issues such as the role of anticoagulants, the author reviews the evidence impartially but rather sits on the fence as to what should be done, though if the decision is made to use anticoagulants, instruction in their use is clear.

One unusual feature is the order of chapters, the medical and surgical management of TIAs being dealt with before chapters on bruits and special investigations. However as the table of contents and index are good, it is not too difficult to find one's way around.

This is a book to be highly recommended.

JOHN MARSHALL

Epilepsy: 100 Elementary Principles. Vol 12 of Major Problems in Neurology series. By Roger J Porter. (Pp 162; £9.95.) London: WB Saunders, 1984.

This is a well written and entertaining book, lightweight but packed with useful clinical points. The text comprises "100 principles", or short pieces dealing with various clinical aspects of epilepsy. The "principles" have often intriguing titles, for example "assume that every patient with epilepsy wants to get well" (no. 2), "psychic phenomena may not be helpful in

the diagnosis of epilepsy" (no. 22), "lip smacking does not always mean partial seizures" (no. 25), or "watch out for saturation kinetics with phenytoin" (no. 64). The principles are then elaborated upon in a few short paragraphs, written in a lively discursive style. The book has no pretensions to be comprehensive or in any sense a reference work, but rather a series of discussion points in the form of short seminar topics. Taken as such, it is highly successful. The information is consistently accurate, authoritative and highly practical. A soufflé rather than a stew, but filling for all that and highly digestible.

SIMON SHORVON

Intracranial Pressure V. Edited by S Ishii, H Nagai and M Brock. (Pp 914; \$52.80.) Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 1983.

This volume comprises abstracts of 121 oral and 46 poster presentations at the Vth International Symposium on Intracranial Pressure held in Tokyo in 1982. A welcome innovation in this latest volume in the series is the addition of six review papers by leading authorities in this and closely related fields, such as the sympathetic control of CSF production and the analysis of experimental brain oedema. The papers are grouped under the headings methodology, ICP pulse-wave analysis, pressure-volume studies, cerebro-vascular aspects of ICP oscillation, blood brain barrier and brain oedema, brain stem dysfunction, head injury, hydrocephalus, cerebrovascular disease, and drugs and anaesthetics. A move to formal type setting has greatly improved the appearance of the papers in comparison with previous volumes, and the quality of reproduction of the electron micrographs, CT scans and autoradiograms is good. The average length of the papers is some 4½ pages, and most but not all of them contain descriptions of methods and results in reasonable detail. Many of the papers concentrate on theoretical and computer-based derivatives of the primary ICP wave forms, although the reliability of ICP measurement systems in clinical use may not always justify such an approach. Other papers address pathophysiological processes such as oedema and ischaemia.

The book provides a comprehensive general survey of the "state of the art", but must be read selectively as the conclusions in some of the papers are somewhat sweeping. The section on head injury is perhaps the most valuable. At approximately £40 this book may not rate high as a priority for

purchase in departments not involved in the field, but it is a useful and important further volume in a well established series.

AJ STRON

Brain Tumours in Childhood: Principles of Diagnosis and Treatment (The International Review of Child Neurology). By Michael E Cohen and Patricia Kreszler Duffner. (Pp 390; \$56.00.) New York: Raven Press.

In my opinion authors and editors of medical books should be obliged to define as clearly as possible the readership for which the work has been designed. The intended readership of this book was by no means clear to this reviewer, particularly when it was found that only 11 pages out of over 300 were written by a neurosurgeon. Certainly a neurosurgeon, paediatric or adult would not find sufficient guidance here for his day-to-day management of a child with a brain tumour. A clue to the answer comes in the Foreword which notes that this is the second volume of the International Review of Child Neurology series which is the official publication of the International Child Neurology Association. It is a book for neurologists and succeeds in providing an overview of the subject aided considerably by information obtained from the SECC registries (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Result) compiled by the National Cancer Institute. While, therefore, the figures for incidence, age at diagnosis etc. are probably the best that are available in the western world and can be compared with the more complete Japanese studies, the sections on treatment are less helpful. The reader (neurologist?) is certainly provided with an excellent review of possible methods of management; help in making decisions at the bedside must be sought elsewhere.

KENNETH TILL

Stroke and the Extracranial Vessels. Editor: Robert R Smith. Assoc. Editors: Steven C Boone, Robert M Crowell, Arthur L Day, John R Little, David G Piepgras (Pp 415; \$98.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1984.

This very expensive but elegantly produced monograph contains 31 contributions, basically all on the subject of the role of vascular surgery in the treatment of cerebrovascular disease. The early part of

J Neurology 1984; 231: 1364-1365. Downloaded from http://jnn.bmj.com/ on September 29, 2023 by