

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.sagepub.com/ on September 29, 2023 by

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the book is concerned with the general background and includes contributions on the history of the subject, on risk factors, blood flow, CT scanning, PET scans, non-invasive tests and angiography. There is then a brief diversion into medical management of TIA and completed strokes but the rest of the book is very firmly aimed at the vascular surgeon. Many of the authors will be new to the general readership in this country and many of the contributions discuss the parochial experience of North American units. Much is said about the techniques of carotid endarterectomy, the ECIC bypass and other vascular procedures. Although most authors honestly refer to their policy as being something that they have derived from their own experience or represents their own advice in a difficult field, there is very little discussion of the evidence for and against any of the procedures. The book lacks a critical review of the few attempts at controlled trials that have taken place in this field and, more importantly, of the current batch of trials going on. In their absence this must remain a statement of the state of the art as perceived in North America. The book will therefore be of interest to neurosurgeons and vascular surgeons carrying out this work, but the text is not sufficiently balanced for this to be highly recommended to the general reader.

MJG HARRISON

Pituitary Hyperfunction: Physiopathology and Clinical Aspects (Serono Symposia Publications from Raven Press, Volume 10). Edited by F Camanni & EE Muller. (Pp 448; \$99.50.) New York: Raven Press, 1984.

This is a useful and up to date review of pituitary disease. Although it is by no means a comprehensive text book there are 11 chapters in the section on the diagnosis and treatment of pituitary tumours. The remaining 24 chapters are concerned with pathophysiology, morphology and epidemiology, but there are many contributions in these sections which are of clinical interest. Nine chapters for example which cover aspects of morphology hormone secretion *in vitro*, report studies on human tissue rather than animal studies of little direct clinical relevance. It is a criticism of the book that some of the chapters are too long and others are too short. It is disappointing that the results of transphenoidal surgery on pituitary adenomas in 892 patients performed at the Mayo Clinic

merits only two pages whereas two chapters on the morphological aspects of pituitary tumours take up 22 pages.

The publishers state that the material in the volume was submitted as previously unpublished work except in the instances where credit has been given to the source of some of the illustrations. This is perhaps an over-statement on the originality of the contributions which in some instances are reviews of previously published work but there is also a good deal of new data.

Unlike some recent publications in this field, this book can be recommended to clinicians as well as research workers.

NF LAWTON

Ultrastructural Atlas of the Inner Ear. Edited by Imrich Friedmann, John Ballantyne. (Pp 329; £59.00.) Sevenoaks: Butterworth Group, 1984.

This is a finely produced atlas devoted to the ultrastructure of the internal ear as revealed by new advanced techniques in electron microscopy with illustrations selected from the resources of the many international contributors to the volume. These contributors draw their study material from avian and mammalian species and include progressive tissue culture studies in differentiation of sensory organ structures and synapse formation of interest to the general neuroanatomist. The scanning electron microscope plates reveal the sheer beauty of structure within the organ of Corti, well seen in fig 5.1 (p 102), whilst preparations by the freeze-fracture technique provide new information as to the structural integrity of intercellular membranes. Essentially this is a text concerned with the structural detail of the normal inner ear and does not include illustration of pathological material or enter discussion of changes induced by experimental trauma, exposure to high acoustic intensity or to high levels of ototoxic antibiotic administration. Man exposes himself to potential inner ear damage from many causes and it is perhaps an omission that this volume does not extend to illustration of experimental, if not human, pathology.

The text is well written as an academic anatomical commentary upon the ultrastructural morphology seen in the plates. In the majority of chapters there is less reference to the neurophysiological connotation of this structure; one exception is the chapter by Spoendlin on the primary cochlear neurons and their synapses where the physiological implications underline the

interest and value of his contribution. Another concept of fundamental physiological interest is that of the tight intercellular junction between endothelial cells able to maintain the high potassium ionic composition of the endolymph; theoretical views on the circulation within the endolymphatic system are here discussed with reference to the potential treatment of Menière's disease in man.

Apart from the cochlea and its neuronal connections, the sensory epithelia of the vestibular labyrinth are of great interest to the neuroanatomist. The characteristic forms and orientation of the kino- and stereo-cilia; the crystalline structure of the curius otoconia and the chalice form of neuronal ending enveloping the base of the Type I sensory cell are depicted and analysed in minute detail.

Dedicated to Dr Hans Engström, this volume is an extensive collection of finely reproduced black and white plates of anatomical material displaying the ultrastructure of the inner ear in its singular beauty of form and the atlas will remain a reference compendium of current knowledge. It is of such quality that at the published price the book must represent excellent value to any library or specialist researcher in neuroanatomy.

WILLIAM EDWARDS

Contemporary Psychiatry. Edited by Sidney Crown. (Pp 313; £16.50.) Sevenoaks: Butterworth Group, 1984.

I must disclose a special interest in this book, having been co-editor with Brian Barraclough of the first book in the series of which this is the third.

As Sidney Crown, the editor of this edition points out in his introduction, *Hospital Medicine*, the journal from which the chapters are drawn publishes authoritative reviews on topics likely to be of interest to doctors preparing for postgraduate examinations. For psychiatrists in the UK this would be Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

How well does the selection go towards meeting the needs of psychiatrists in training? The choice of topics is necessarily somewhat idiosyncratic, but is none the worse for that. After all, those needing a more comprehensive treatment of clinical psychiatry have plenty of texts to choose from. Here, however, they will find subjects considered in depth which are usually treated cursorily, if at all, in the more comprehensive textbooks. These include topics