Book reviews

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 (Seroni 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 curious 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 Barracough 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