lesions. Three haemodynamic facts are considered, the flow velocity into major feeding arteries of the AVM, the capacity of central arteries for autoregulation and the reaction of the AVM shunt to arterial hypotension. He discusses interesting ideas on the technical aspects such as the "backward technique" of excision and the sectorisation of AVMs and the advantages of staged removals.

Sindou and Goutelle from Lyon provide a thoughtful review of posterior rhizotomy for pain; they particularly recommend this procedure when there is a well defined localised lesion both pathologically and anatomically. They caution against this procedure for non-malignant causes but will consider it for well-defined peripheral or radicular neuralgias. The various types of rhizotomy are discussed, extradural, ganglionectomy and selective intradural section.

The final chapter on the infratemporal fossa approach to lesions of the skull base by Kumar and Fisch, was of particular interest to the reviewer. Such lesions tend not to be well treated being not only rare but also somewhat out of the repertoire of neurosurgeons or otorhinolaryngologists. This authoritative chapter will be of great value to surgeons faced with these lesions.

There can be no doubt that too many books are published, many with little to recommend them. This volume and series is a clear exception to this stricture and the reviewer is delighted these eminent authorities have been asked to record their experience and knowledge for our benefit. I recommend, in stockbrokers parlance, a "buy" and more to the point, a careful read.

CBT ADAMS

Clinical Management of Seizures. A Guide for the Physician. 2nd Edition. By Gail E Solomon, Henn Kutt, Fred Plum (Pp 317; £15.95.) Eastbourne: WB Saunders, 1983

This pocket sized book with its spiral binding and a plastic cover is, according to the publisher's coverspeak, a practical handbook "as vital to quality patient care as a stethoscope or blood pressure cuff". Such nonsense does not do the authors justice, and should not detract from the virtues of this well written small book. The triad of authors (unfortunately the individual contributions are not signed) maintain a consistently high standard of writing and content. The text is divided into sections on the

history of epilepsy; basic physiological, biochemical and pharmacological aspects; the classification of epilepsy and EEG; epidemiology and investigation; drug treatment; and a section on special management problems. The chapters on classification and EEG are excellent, clearly and precisely written notably well chosen electroencephalographic illustrations. The section dealing with epidemiology, aetiology and investigation is equally good - here the practical experience of the authors is clearly evident, and there is a timely piece on reactions to CT contrast media for instance. The discourse on treatment and special management problems occupies over half of the text; it is very well done, and is remarkably comprehensive. Hackneyed subjects (for example the use of blood levels, the place of withdrawal of therapy) are dealt with as succinctly as more original aspects (for example, encephalographic patterns in psychiatric patients, sexual behaviour in epilepsy). There are so many excellent sections that it is difficult to single out any for special mention, but I found the sections on the individual drugs, febrile convulsions, seizures in psychiatric patients and the treatment of epilepsy in female patients particularly good. Criticisms are minor; the section on the adverse effects of anticonvulsant drugs is rather uneven and the history section, which largely follows Temkin, is not very original; inaccuracies and omissions are rare, valproate is not mentioned in the section on the section on thrombocytopenia and the epinephrine stimulation test for neutropenia is stressed out of proportion to its importance, but these are quibbles. This little book is more than a pocket sized handbook, and considerably better than many larger and more pretentious volumes.

SIMON SHORRON

The Anterior Pituitary Gland. Edited by Ajay S Bhatnagar. (Pp 471; \$61.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1983

A series of papers given at a seminar on various aspects of the anterior pituitary gland at the Medical College in Virginia are presented in this book which is divided into five sections concerning Anatomy, Biochemistry, Neurosecretion, Physiology and Clinical aspects. Each section is introduced by a lead chapter and it is these chapters which provide a useful review of particular topics. Inevitably each section

covers limited areas, some in great detail but of interest only to clinicians or scientists in a particular field. In this sense the title of the book is misleading since it is not a text book of the anterior pituitary gland. The most obvious criticism of the book is the considerable delay which has taken place since the seminars were held. Although the references are excellent, they do not extend beyond 1981. As a result there is no reference, for example, to the recent discovery of growth hormone releasing hormone in spite of the fact that contributors to the book were closely involved in this exciting work. Although there are some excellent chapters I would recommend that prospective readers borrow a copy before buying it.

NF LAWTON

Eleventh International Symposium on Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism. Paris, France, June 20-24, 1983. Volume 3, Supplement 1, 1983 of the Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism. Edited by Andre Bes, Eric T MacKenzie and Jaques Seylaz. (Pp 703; \$81.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1983.

This is the collection of 335 two-page abstracts for this bi-annual meeting and was published for the meeting itself. All the abstracts were marked by seven referees on the International Advisory Committee and the book provides a unique summary of what is current in the field of cerebral blood flow and metabolism both clinically and experimentally using the whole range of techniques. The great majority of the contributions have not yet appeared as formal papers.

The editors are to be congratulated on the publication of this volume by the time of the meeting.

J PICKARD

Cerebral Basis of Psychopathology. By Pierre Flor-Henry. (Pp 357; £35.00.) Bristol: PSG Wright, 1983.

Pierre Flor-Henry is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Alberta. He has already written numerous articles and edited several books on the role of hemisphere imbalance in causing psychiatric disorders. In this book he draws together all the evidence and it will undoubtedly be regarded as his *magnum opus*.