and social problems can interact in endlessly complex ways to produce psychiatric disturbance, ones sympathy has to go to the Editor in trying to offer a satisfactory chapter of conclusion to this book. One should perhaps not be disappointed that he has failed, but grateful so many basic scientists and clinicians are working in this area.

DW CHADWICK

Clobazam: Human Psychopharmacology and Clinical Applications. The Royal Society of Medicine International Congress and Symposium Series Number 74. Edited by I Hindmarch, PD Stonier and M Trimble (Pp 216: £8.00.) Oxford: Oxford University Press for the Royal Society of Medicine, 1985.

This is the 74th volume in the RSM International Congress and Symposium Series. It is the proceedings of a symposium held in 1983, arranged by the manufacturers of clobazam. The text is divided into two parts; the first on the psychopharmacology and anxiolytic activity and the second on the psychopharmacology and antiepileptic activity of clobazam. There are 30 contributions in all, including several by clinicians associated with the manufacturers, and a number of different aspects of the drug are covered. The standard is variable, with the usual number of papers dealing with small numbers of patients and open studies. Whether this sort of publication serves any useful function is doubtful, apart from providing a source of reference material. Ironically, the book comes out after the recent introduction of a limited list, which excludes the NHS prescription of clobazam for anxiety.

SIMON SHORVON

Head Injury Rehabilitation: Children and Adolescents. Edited by Mark Vlivdaker. (Pp 463: £28.00.) Basingstoke: Taylor & Francis Ltd, 1985.

This book represents an attempt at dealing with a neglected area within a neglected area. There is still relatively little written about rehabilitation after head injury in general, but there is even less written in the very neglected area of paediatric head injury, despite the fact that head injury injures predominantly a young and young adult population. This book is dedicated both to the head injured children and their

families, and throughout there is a welcome stress upon family, functional, educational, and vocational aspects of outcome, although purely physical and medical issues are dealt with also.

The book is sub-divided into sections, dealing broadly with medical/physical issues; family and behavioural issues; cognitive issues, and finally programme management. In each section, the authors give a comprehensive account of their own clinical experience and practice, although as is often the case in the head injury field, there is a lack of validated rehabilitation studies from which the authors may draw. In addition, there is a hint of an unwelcome polarisation of views so that the editor in one section refers to the effects of rehabilitation in terms of "patient progress, and not academic acceptability". The ideal is to use both criteria, but the stress in the book is firmly clinical rather than operational/academic. Having said this, there is an enormous amount of extremely useful, high quality information to guide any rehabilitation specialist in the management of patients—adults as well as children. This book is not overpriced, and it will become a crucial part of the armamentarium of anybody working with head injured patients.

DN BROOKS

Stroke: A Critical Approach to Diagnosis, Treatment and Management. By DT Wade, R Langton-Hewer, CE Skilbeck and RM David. (Pp 377: £20.00.) London: Chapman and Hall Medical, 1985.

Among the plethora of books on stroke, this is one with a difference. It is a joint effort between two doctors, a speech therapist and a psychologist. The word "critical" in the title is the key word. The authors have assessed current practice in stroke management and found it wanting. Of medical treatment they declare, "there is not yet any specific medical treatment known to be of benefit. . . . meanwhile, it must be realized that the use of these therapies on (randomly) selected patients probably does not benefit the individual patient". All that can be done on this score in the authors' view is to try to prevent complications developing.

Surprisingly the same rigour is not applied to physical and psychological treatment and to speech therapy. It is recommended speech therapy be started early, though evidence as to its value is lacking. Memory and cognitive training are

likewise recommended though the evidence presented hardly provides a powerful case for their value. This being said the book is valuable in providing detailed guidance on how stroke patients should be assessed, for without reliable assessment the efficacy of therapy cannot properly be measured. Those working with stroke patients and particularly those trying to organise a service will find this book of great help.

JOHN MARSHALL

Cerebrovascular Diseases Fourteenth Research (Princeton-Williamsburg) Conference Edited by Fred Plum and William A Pulsinelli. (Pp 281; \$82.50.) New York: Raven Press, 1985.

The published proceedings of many meetings tend to be of limited interest and generally disappointing. However, the proceedings of the Princeton conference is an exception. The topics are always carefully selected and many of them represent a state of the art assessment on areas of current interest. The participants, especially those from overseas, are also carefully selected and therefore the quality of the discussion is good. This volume lives up to the previous standards. There are a number of valuable contributions. Those on the role of carotid endarterectomy are particularly worth reading. Dr Dyken's estimate is that there are probably fifty thousand unnecessary carotid endarterectomies performed each year in the United States which means approximately one thousand four hundred deaths and ten thousand strokes, is indeed sobering. The further unsolved problems of stroke prevention and the treatment of intracerebral haemorrhage are discussed. There are sections on neurological grading scales, rheological factors in stroke, haematological approaches to stroke therapy, perinatal cerebrovascular problems and mallicular mechanisms in ischaemic brain damage including contributions on oxygen free radicals and the effects of hypoglycaemia and cerebroacidosis on ischaemic brain damage.

Every medical library should have a copy of these proceedings.

DJ THOMAS