embolus, spasticity, involuntary movements and frozen shoulder are considered separately. A complete chapter is devoted to the loss of language with a few sentences on the classification of speech disorders and simple "tips for talking to the patient."

Although rather naive in some of its considerations I feel those responsible for the care of stroke patients should study this chapter, for communication in the dysphasic patient is the essential problem and the simple statements of advice given on this chapter are very useful and certainly should be included in any teaching on the management and care of dysphasic patients. Perceptual disorders and psychological problems are considered and the remainder of the book is devoted to remarks concerning prognosis, the value of physiotherapy and the various aids and home modifications available.

There has been a great deal of discussion in the literature and in leading articles on the rehabilitation of stroke and now we have in this small pamphlet some very positive ideas put together in a most acceptable form. Very useful to those involved in the management of stroke patients are some addresses and publications put together in a comprehensive appendix, mentioning organisations and help groups available not only in the United Kingdom, but elsewhere in the world. This gives the pamphlet a somewhat international flavour and I feel at very low cost those in the neurological specialties should read the advice given to us by Dr Mulley, not with an attitude of critical scientific evaluation, but simply to remind ourselves where in certain areas we may be lax and inattentive in applying some of the simple precepts he discusses.

JB FOSTER

Physiological and Behavioural Effects of Food Constituents. *Nutrition and the Brain, Vol 6.* Edited by Richard J Wurtman, Judith J Wurtman. (Pp 292; \$56.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1983.

The ability of nutritional factors to alter brain function is a fascinating area of research which could potentially affect us all in the way we select our diet. Normal brain function requires a variety of substances which cannot be synthesised within nervous tissue but which are incorporated from the diet. Many of these essential factors have been identified and their potential for altering brain function highlighted in previous volumes of this series. However, much remains unknown and in par-

ticular little attention has been given to the many substances hidden in commercially produced foods such as colourings and other permitted additives.

The present volume is unfortunately rather mixed in its approach to the physiological and behavioural effects of food constituents. The initial chapter is highly specialised dealing in particular with the pharmacology of methylxanthines and caffeine. This is followed by an intriguing insight into the workings of the FDA in regulating neuro-effective food additives. Attention is subsequently focused on the possible behavioural and cognitive effects of diet in children and on the question of what governs our selection of food. Finally, an important question related to brain function is discussed, namely the ability of dietary amino acid precursors to regulate monoamine transmission in brain.

While many intriguing facets of nutrition are discussed, this is not good general reading as a single volume. The individual contributions are excellent but they do not marry well together. However, as part of the series *Nutrition and the Brain*, the work will find itself on many library shelves.

PETER JENNER

Atlas of Pediatric Neurosurgical Techniques. By Francisco J Villarejo. (Pp 224; \$89.25.) Basel: Karger, 1984.

Operative neurosurgery books appear upon the market at a steady rate. Clearly they attract a sufficient number of buyers, or the publishers would not undertake the considerable expense of producing them. They certainly satisfy the needs of those neurosurgeons who feel they must attempt the very difficult task of committing to paper their methods of operating. How well they satisfy the needs of others, is however, a different matter. Surgeons derive their expertise from a mixture, in varying proportions, of watching, listening, reading, assisting, but mainly from (sometimes painfully acquired) experience. For the sake of the patient this complex process must be as speedy as possible; hence the possible value of books such as this. Dr Villarejo was at an early stage interested in paediatric neurosurgery and, as has always been essential, travelled far and wide to acquire his knowledge.

Within the unavoidable limits imposed by the printed page, this atlas succeeds in conveying a clear idea of the author's methods. The numerous line-drawings are diagrammatic and easily understood.

Photographs of patients, angiograms and CT scans are used to supplement the information.

That the repertoire of lesions found in the paediatric age group and the techniques needed to deal with them surgically are substantially different from those found in adult neurosurgery is very apparent from this atlas. Few neurosurgeons, whether they be experienced or not, could fail to obtain helpful instruction from these pages.

KENNETH HILL

Neurocardiology. The Interrelationship between Dysfunction in the Nervous Cardiovascular System. (MPN Vol 13.) By Ralph M Johnson, David G Lambie and John MK Spalding. (Pp 408; £19.50.) London: WB Saunders Co, 1984.

In 1974, Johnson and Spalding performed an importance service when they wrote one of the first comprehensive accounts of the clinical disorders of the autonomic nervous system: they successfully brought together in a readable and scholarly way much information which was hitherto only available in separate journals. Now 10 years later and aided by a third author, Dr Lambie they have succeeded again. This book entitled *Neurocardiology* and subtitled *The inter-relationship between dysfunction in the nervous and cardiovascular system*, is sub-divided into major sections. The first analyses the normal and abnormal control of the cardiovascular system by the nervous system and is mainly a welcome revision and expansion of much of their first book. To give an example of the progress in this field, their chapter on orthostatic hypotension which is still the presenting symptom of many autonomic disorders requires more than 200 references to recent work. They discuss controversies concerning the classification of progressive autonomic failure which has been clarified by the availability of plasma catecholamine assays and rigorous clinical testing as well as by the newly available receptor binding studies. The wide range of drug treatments they review is merely a reflection of the great difficulties that remain in the management of these disorders. In addition to the progressive disorders of unknown cause they discuss fully diabetes and also alcoholism in which they have recently taken a particular interest. The more complex problems of the cardiovascular responses to emotion and pain are also discussed. As in their earlier book they enliven their text with quotations from

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Hippocrates ("those who suffer from frequent and severe fainting without obvious cause die suddenly") and Harvey and Gowers.

The second section of the book entitled "Effects of the cardiovascular system on the nervous system" is more difficult to classify. The authors review the physiology of cerebral blood flow; their chapter on the basis of strokes is particularly helpful. The range covered includes spinal cord vascular disease, migraine and various disorders of the collagen and inflammatory group. The book ends with a note on multiple sclerosis for which there is some evidence for a breakdown in the blood brain barrier but any link between a possible vascular aetiology and the controversial current use of hyperbaric oxygen must be regarded as doubly speculative. However, by approaching these neurological disorders from, as it were, a tangential direction, some refreshing and original ideas about aetiology are examined.

Those with special interests may find less in particular areas than they need but to have covered so much is a mark of critical selection which has succeeded and both sections of the book are excellent in their different ways. Those engaged in research will find it necessary for current assessment of clinical autonomic function and cardiologists, general physicians and neurologists will all find much of interest and instruction within its well designed and readable pages.

R BANNISTER

Cranioplasty Indications, Techniques and Results. By Dragoslav Stula. (Pp 112; \$29.50.) Vienna: Springer-Verlag, 1984.

I wish I could find this book more useful than it is. For a start, it is of a good size, being just over 100 pages of text and illustrations with all the advantages of a single author being given more space than would be allowed him in a journal (except as a supplement) to expand upon a subject that might otherwise tend to be taken for granted and yet is one in which he has taken a particular interest. There are also some unexpected pleasures to be derived from the quality of the translation (presumably from German) and the proof-reading (presumably in German). A phrase like "a cranial bone plastic is performed" may not be intentional, but what about "where the bone is splattered or dirty"? What a splendid neologism splattered is. I hope it escapes the proof-readers of this review.

Unfortunately, the disadvantages predominate. Dr Stula has 217 patients to describe and some interesting histories to relate, but the information is never presented really well enough for us to learn from such an experience. He tells us that large bone defects of the skull vault produce cosmetic disabilities of such severity that filling them in is a good thing. There are ample pictures to demonstrate this and I doubt whether there would be any serious disagreement. However, the interesting questions relate to the alterations in the dynamics of cranial pressure and their effects upon cerebral function. Dr Stula's CT scan illustrates the enormous shift of the ventricular system that may occur away from the side of the defect and he records cases where extradural monitoring of intracranial pressure has revealed grossly raised pressures which fell to normal as soon as a cranioplasty had been performed. This is tantalising stuff but closer inspection reveals that such an abnormality was discovered in only four out of a total of 12 patients who were studied in this fashion and further on there is a rather contradictory remark about all the patients with large skull defects who came to surgery for cranioplasty with lumbar drains inserted for pressure recording, in fact, having low pressures. It is problems like these which detract from the value of this volume. Those who favour titanium for their reconstructions will find no mention of it here but there is an interesting description of the storage of bone flaps within the anterior abdominal wall (6 cases) until they are needed. This might well prove useful in a third world situation although I doubt if it is often required nowadays in Basel.

There are few references outside the German literature and with the pound and the dollar approaching parity I suspect that many neurosurgeons will wish to preserve their \$29.50 for more rewarding purchases.

RD HAYWARD

Communication in Parkinson's Disease. By Sheila Scott, FI Caird and BO Williams. (Pp 113; £7.95.) Beckenham: Croom Helm Ltd, 1984.

Inability to communicate is one of the greatest burdens of patients with Parkinson's disease. Modern drug therapy can help Parkinsonian speech but, unfortunately, many patients still are left with difficulty in producing intelligible language. A recent survey of patients revealed that almost 50% reported significant speech

disturbance (Oxtoby, M 1982, Parkinson's Disease Patients and their Social Needs, Parkinson's Disease Society, London). Any other means of helping such individuals would be of inestimable value.

This small volume reviews what is known of the problems of speech and communication in Parkinson's disease. One of its values is to bring together the literature available in neurological, geriatric and speech communication journals. This should make it an invaluable starting reference work for anyone preparing to tackle the problem. The authors themselves have set about evaluating how to assess Parkinsonian speech and the many methods that speech therapists have tried to help. Their studies on the use of proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation and prosodic exercise therapy have led them to suggest a rational and cost effective method of delivering domiciliary speech therapy. What now is needed urgently is replication of their results which, if achieved, should lead to greater use of speech therapy in Parkinson's disease.

CD MARSDEN

Neuro-Otology and Skull Base Surgery. Advances in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology Series Vol 34. Edited by P van den Broek, C Cremers, G Hoogland, J Mann. (Pp 286; \$98.25.) Basel: Karger 1984.

This records the proceedings of an international workshop on its title subjects, held in the Netherlands towards the end of 1983. Provided that it is considered as a bound collection of nearly 25 papers, on this topic, it will be of interest to anyone working in this field. There is no way in which this should be looked at as a text book on the subject, nor do I believe its distinguished editors wish to present it in that light. All but the last few papers are concerned with cerebello-pontine angle tumours, so that the representation of other skull base surgery is relatively small.

What is however achieved by presenting the products of this symposium is a series of individual papers which cover every "up to date" aspect of the anatomy, the diagnosis, and the treatment of cerebello-pontine angle tumours, and particularly acoustic neurinomas. 18 papers, each by separate authors cover these topics. Three more are devoted to facial nerve problems; one to a new and original method for section of the vestibular nerve in Meniere's disease; and two to skull base surgery proper. The papers are interspersed with