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 splintered or dirty"? What a splendid neologism splintered 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

transcripts from the panel discussions. This then is a collection of papers mostly well written and informative. For the specialist neuro-otological surgeon it has a great deal to offer, but I doubt whether many will consider that the price of nearly \$100 justifies its acquisition for a personal book shelf.

H LUDMAN

Greenfield's Neuropathology 4th ed. Editors: J Hume Adams, JAN Corsellis and LW Duchen. (Pp 1123; £85.00.) London: Edward Arnold Ltd, 1984.

The new, fourth edition of Greenfield's Neuropathology has been published eight years after its predecessor. New editions of authoritative reference books, and Greenfield's Neuropathology is surely such a book, are always awaited by practitioners of the appropriate discipline with great expectations which frequently remain unfulfilled. These books should strike a delicate balance between historical review and recent developments of the subject; they should neither become mere archives of ancient achievements, nor should they be just catalogues of recent advances. The criticism occasionally levelled at the previous edition was that, whilst it contained a comprehensive review of the subject, it did not reflect current trends in neurobiology.

Neuropathology, perhaps more than any other branch of pathology, is closely related to the relevant clinical subjects of neurology, neurosurgery, neuroradiology and psychiatry and is intimately allied to the various disciplines of neurosciences including neurophysiology, neurochemistry and neuroimmunology. Neuropathology thus provides a vital link between clinical medicine and experimental neurobiology and its development is inseparable from progress in neurosciences. The last decade has witnessed an explosion of knowledge in neurobiology and the success of the new edition should be judged by its ability to report these new developments. How does the fourth edition of Greenfield's Neuropathology reflect the progress of the last 10 years?

There are obvious and superficial differences between the third and fourth editions and the emphasis is very much on increase: the number of editors has increased to three, the volume become thicker by 180 pages and the purchase price rocketed from £37.50 to £85.00. There is a striking change of authors: two-thirds of the contributors are new and some of them are

experimental neurobiologists rather than clinical neuropathologists. This is a welcome change and some of the best chapters are the result of collaboration between authors of different backgrounds (chapters 2, 7, 13, 14, 18 and 19). The table of contents shows also considerable changes with an overall good effect upon the book. The new chapter on the pathophysiology of raised intracranial pressure (Miller and Adams) provides an excellent clinico-pathological account of the consequences of space-occupying lesions and thus fills a gap which existed in the previous edition. Hypoxia and vascular disorders (Brierley and Graham) now form a single chapter, whilst spontaneous intracranial haemorrhage, dealing with the complications of hypertensive cerebrovascular disease and of aneurysm, merits an additional chapter (Weller). Malformations and perinatal brain damage have been split into two separate chapters, both have been well-written and beautifully illustrated by the same author (Larroche). The chapter on psychoses of obscure pathology has been omitted from the new edition; this is a pity, since interest has recently focused on this difficult, controversial and previously much neglected field. All the other chapters of the previous edition have been preserved and much expanded. The first chapter on the general pathology of neurons and neuroglia (Duchen) sets, to some extent, the tone of the volume: new insight into cellular and molecular biology of the brain forms the scientific basis of recent developments in neuropathology. On head injuries, the reader can enjoy the expertise of the Glasgow group in this field (Adams). The account of demyelinating diseases (Allen) puts the emphasis on research with human material rather than experimental models but the controversial theories of aetiology and pathogenesis are lucidly reviewed. The chapter on lysosomal enzyme deficiencies (Lake) gives perhaps the best example of how cerebral diseases can and should be investigated: light and electron microscopy coupled with biochemical assays and histochemical techniques will provide the diagnosis and the author proves to be a reliable guide through the treacherous jungle of these complex diseases. The authors of chapters on diseases of the basal ganglia, cerebellum and motor neurons (Oppenheimer), disorders of the spine and spinal cord (Hughes), epilepsy (Meldrum and Corsellis), hypothalamus and pituitary gland (Treip) and muscles (Harriman) are the same as in the previous edition; they have however succeeded in

updating their contributions. The chapter on muscle manages to give as much, if not more, useful information in 70 pages than more voluminous books dealing with the same subject. Two leading experts of the field (Tomlinson and Corsellis) have joined forces to give a comprehensive and illuminating account of ageing and dementias. The importance of dementias—10% of those over 65 will become demented—has now been recognised, and recent research, using quantitative morphometry, biochemistry and immunocytochemistry, has provided new insight into Alzheimer's disease which causes dementia more frequently than any other disorder.

The new edition follows what by now has become a tradition: tumours of the nervous system are not incorporated into Greenfield's, presumably since Russell and Rubinstein's book is a complementary volume. Whilst this latter book on brain tumours is likely to remain the most authoritative reference book in neuro-oncology, a cogent case can quite easily be made for Greenfield's Neuropathology to have a chapter on neoplasms. After all, no one questions why muscles and peripheral nerves are included, despite the large number of books dealing with those subjects. This is a problem to which editors of the next edition should address themselves. Even without an extra chapter on tumours, a two-volume edition now appears inevitable.

The book is adequately illustrated and the overall quality of the illustrations is good. It is however surprising to find only half a dozen pictures of immuno-staining (nearly all in the chapter on viral diseases), for this technique has contributed most to clinical and experimental neuropathology since the introduction of electron microscopy. Scanning electron micrographs illustrate the chapter on spontaneous intracranial haemorrhage, while a few CT scans appear in chapters 2 and 6. The reference lists in most cases are up-to-date and the editors need not apologise for having omitted certain historical aspects of the subject.

Editing this book must have been a Herculean task for the three editors, but their job has been well done: they have produced a good book.

PL LANIOS