The book ends with a list of antidepressants that might be suggested to patients. Side-effects are given prominence, but in an inconsistent and not always entirely accurate way. For instance, tranylcypromine is listed in such a way that it implies that it is the only drug to be stopped if throbbing headache develops, and dothepin would be assumed to be the only tricyclic to cause postural hypotension. It might have been better to group the drugs together into MAOIs and tricyclics and related drugs and list side effects for the groups themselves. One notable omission is the age incidence of depression with no mention of the increasing occurrence of depression in the elderly, the need for its differentiation from "senility" and the benefits of treatment. In summary this is a very good attempt to provide an informative and practical guide to depression. It will, however, be of use only to those of a high reading age, to whom it would be very acceptable, and to others who might dip into it for the answer to a specific question.

I would be most likely to recommend it to university students on courses for qualification in social work, health visiting and allied professions, and to medical students, since it provides a better and more comprehensive account than most undergraduate text books.

IR CARD

Intracranial Arteriovenous Malformations. (*Current Neurosurgical Practice Series*). Edited by Charles B Wilson and Bennett M Stein. (Pp 342; £50.00.) London: Williams & Wilkins, 1984.

This monograph inaugurates the new series on current neurosurgical practice and sets out the current status of diagnosis and treatment. It is a multiple author cooperative and this is reflected in a slightly uneven style and standard of presentation so that one is uncertain as to the precise level of readership for which it is intended. The broad spectrum of information covered would certainly be appropriate for medical students and young neurosurgical trainees whilst the bibliography in some chapters is excellent and up-to-date to a point where it acts as a satisfactory reference volume.

The natural history which has been in a considerable state of flux in recent years is reviewed in relation to the relevant literature at the annual rebleeding rate and morbidity rate are studied with the lack of specific prognostic factors still being a

disappointing feature. The pathology of ischaemia in treated and untreated angiomas is well reviewed and puts current theory and the limitations of experimental work in prospective at the same time advancing possible therapeutic options for consideration.

The following chapter quantitating the altered haemodynamics pursues this and further discusses steal syndromes and the results of partial and total lesion excision. Some potentially useful therapeutic guides emerge. The angiographic classification, delineation, and differential diagnosis are very well illustrated and covers the range of malformation completely. This is followed by an equally illuminating chapter relating to modern methods of CT scanning. The pre-operative and anaesthetic techniques follow standard lines and the descriptions of surgical removal are relatively simple.

The various types of malformation both in relation to pathology and site are dealt with clearly and methods of treatment including embolisation and catheter and balloon occlusion are considered perhaps superficially but nevertheless adequately. Carotid cavernous fistulae are discussed in detail and the more modern techniques of balloon occlusion considered appropriately. The final chapter on radio-surgery gives a very reasonable account of this most promising recent technique for treatment and will perhaps be particularly relevant in view of the hoped for establishment of such a unit in the United Kingdom.

AE RICHARDSON

Clinical Anaesthesia in Neurosurgery. Edited by Elizabeth AM Frost. (Pp 480; £55.00.) Sevenoaks: Butterworth Group, 1984.

This book on clinical anaesthesia in neurosurgery covers the subject thoroughly; there are some fifteen contributing authors, anaesthetists, neurosurgeons and, in one chapter, a bar-rister.

The book has been divided into five parts, cerebral physiology and evaluation, neurosurgical and related procedures, post-operative and intensive care and cerebral death. There is a wide and detailed consideration of all aspects of clinical anaesthesia and the extra dimension obtained by the inclusion of neurosurgeons emphasises the importance of team work, as well as adding information which is not

always found in pure anaesthetic books. In the chapter on posterior fossa surgery, the prone and lateral positions are rather dismissed in favour of the sitting position, but in this country it seems that more neurosurgeons are using these two positions for such operations, to the great relief of the anaesthetists involved. Furthermore there is considerable detail about electro-physiological monitoring, surgery of seizures and percutaneous cordotomy. The breadth of information provided will undoubtedly appeal to a wide spectrum of readers and not to anaesthetists alone.

The book is well set out and contains wealth of information and very adequate references; there are informative photographs and figures. For a reader wishing to study the American practice of neurosurgical anaesthesia and to pick up a fund of other information on other closely related subjects, this book no doubt fills their need. For a candidate studying for the FFARCS, a shorter, more concise account may perhaps be more suitable, but if he reads this one he will undoubtedly be better informed.

TDW DAVIES

Mosby's Manual of Neurological Care.

Gordon Vogt, Margaret Miller, Myron Esluer. (Pp 431; £20.00.) St. Louis: CV Mosby Co. UK Distrib: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1985.

This book is aimed at nurses in training working in neurological units in North America. A very substantial portion is devoted to neurological examination and diagnosis, which would not be regarded as part of the British-trained nurse's expertise. For example, detailed regimens for the treatment of bacterial meningitis are listed with the side effects of the relevant antibiotics. This reflects the North American preoccupation with litigation.

The authors introduce the book as a reference volume for the care of "neurologically dysfunctional" patients. The chapter headings are fairly clear, there are good illustrations and also line drawings. I think this should be quite a useful reference book in many neurological/neurosurgical wards, perhaps also in general wards where neurological patients are nursed, though the nursing intervention advocated would often be a great deal more than would be expected or required in British Units. The price of the book at twenty pounds is reasonable, but it is interesting that my nursing colleagues thought that this was an expensive book.

JE REE