masks peculiar to that game. Furthermore approximately half of this book is taken up with an account of two special research projects of the authors: a radiotelemetric study of head impacts as they actually occur on the football field, and an investigation of neck muscle resistance to sudden head movement. Interesting as these studies are, they only serve to limit the potential readership even further. One is left with about a third of the book which discusses the mechanisms of head injury together with their diagnosis and management from a general point of view. These parts of the book contain much useful basic information which is well set out, but they do not warrant purchase by an English reader. Neurological injuries can result from a wide range of sporting activities, each of which causes special problems and it may be that there is a need for a monograph on the neurology of sport in its widest aspects. Unfortunately this book does not set out to fill that gap.

RS MAURICE-WILLIAMS

Management of Neurological Disorders. 2nd Edition. By Bryan Ashworth and Michael Saunders, (Pp 330; £14.95.) Sevenoaks: The Butterworth Group, 1985

Few neurological texts try to tackle the difficult problems of what to tell the patient and when. This book does so. It also contains many practical hints on the management of the physical and psychological problems of the disabled. As such, it should prove an excellent guide to the people for whom the Preface tells us it is designed: medical students, junior doctors, nurses and the paramedical profession of speech, physio, and occupational therapy.

If it has faults, they lie in its scope. At one end, I feel that it tries to cover too much: psychiatry and general intensive care, for example, are better covered in other texts. At the other, some of the details are perhaps a little misleading. Is it really true, for example that, if performed with care, visual evoked responses are "usually absent" in cortical blindness? And the quoted operative mortality rates for meningiomas (as high as 25% for those with a parasagittal origin) seem to take too little account of the achievements of modern neurosurgery. But these are quibbles. This is a thoroughly worthwhile book illuminated by a good deal of humanity and common sense.

G HARWOOD

Haemostasis in Cerebrospinal Fluid. Basic Concept of Antifibrinolytic Therapy of Subarachnoid Haemorrhage (*Acta Neurochirurgica, Supplementum 34*) By Peter Hindersin, Richard Heidrich & Siegfried Endler (Pp 77; DM54.00.) Vienna: Springer-Verlag, 1984.

In the initial chapters of this book the authors review results of their own extensive investigations into the effects of subarachnoid haemorrhage on the coagulation and fibrinolytic systems. They discuss the possible actions and interactions of each on the aneurysm thrombus both from within the vascular compartment and from the CSF space. A review of the literature on antifibrinolytic therapy in subarachnoid haemorrhage follows, preceding a detailed description of the pharmacological action of the antifibrinolytic agent p-aminomethyl benzoic acid (PAMBA) based on both animal and patient studies. The authors conclude that oral therapy of PAMBA is inadequate and that only intrathecal administration provides a significant antifibrinolytic effect (they make no comment on intravenous administration). The study culminates in a clinical evaluation of intrathecal PAMBA in patients with subarachnoid haemorrhage and a recommendation that this should be combined with either epsilon aminocaproic acid (EACA) or tranexamic acid (AMCA).

Although brief, the combination of many errors of English usage combined with a distinct lack of simplicity of phrase and colloquial language makes reading difficult. Such terms as "aetiologically unelucidated subarachnoid haemorrhage" and "inflammatorily changed CSF" take some time to digest!

The literature review is somewhat uncritical, and on several occasions conclusions from other studies are reproduced with an unwarranted dogmatism. The authors assume "good results" with EACA and AMCA in preventing rebleeding, yet from their own studies conclude that neither drug produces adequate suppression of fibrinolysis around the aneurysm fundus. Inevitably the authors own work is not described in the detail of the original publications, but crucial information is omitted, preventing proper evaluation. The basic scientific discussion builds up to the important question of whether or not intrathecal PAMBA helps prevent rebleeding, but an anticlimax follows when one finds that the treatment group in the relevant clinical study contained only 25 patients. There is no mention of numbers in the control

group, matching between groups, or whether or not randomization or double blinding occurred. This makes the resultant failure to show a significant effect meaningless. Should subsequent studies with greater patient numbers succeed in demonstrating a reduction of rebleeding with intrathecal PAMBA, it would still be essential to ensure that this benefit was not offset by ischaemic complications and recently reported for tranexamic acid before adopting it for routine use.

This book may benefit readers with particular interest in antifibrinolysis, but I suspect that it would be of little value to general neurologist or neurosurgeon.

KW LINDSA

Pain. Edited by R Rizzi and M Visentini (Pp 488; £30.00.) Sevenoaks: Picci Butterworths, 1984.

This book comprises the proceedings, apparently with little editing, of a meeting of the European Chapters of the International Association for the Study of Pain held in Italy in 1983. It contains an extraordinary mixture of papers, with great variation in clinical and scientific standards. The book is divided into three main sections, on neck-shoulder-arm pain, pain in children and pain control in malignancies of the vertebral column. However, many of the contributors range more widely in their papers. Some of the papers are short reviews, others are reports of specific investigations, and others are no more than statements by the authors of their personally preferred treatments in particular situations. There are too many of the last sort and they would not be publishable elsewhere. The English translation of some papers leads to considerable ambiguity.

The subject matter in parts is novel to British reader and not always well described. For example, I am still not sure exactly what the Nothnagel-Schultze algoparaesthetic syndrome or the Obdenskaja-Goljanitzi effect are. There are some bright spots in an otherwise indifferent collection of papers. Walsh writes clearly about morphine pharmacokinetics, stressing particularly the wide individual differences in opiate metabolism, and again on pain measurement in advanced cancer. A paper by Caldirola *et al* addresses the problem of chronic pelvic pain in adult women, with the surprising finding of a history of incest in no fewer than 36%. Ansell deals with the difficulties of assessing joint pain in children in a short, succinct article. In the section on pain control in malignancy