mask 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 readability 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


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


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 “inflammatoryy 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 as 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 LINDSAY


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, where the English translation of some papers leads to considerable ambiguity.

The subject matter in parts is novel to a British reader and not always well described. For example, I am still not sure exactly what the Nothnagel-Schultze algoparasthesiometric syndrome or the Oberskaaja-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, succint article. In the section on pain control in malignancy.
nancies of the spine, there is an intriguing short report of continuous intrathecal infusion of opiates, apparently without respiratory depression or the other common side-effects encountered with intermittent administration, and a report of good analgesia with intrathecal salicylate therapy, without serious adverse effects.

Unfortunately, most of the book contains short papers about a wide variety of treatments. There is an almost complete absence of controls in these studies, and little mention of methods of pain assessment. The volume warrants a rapid scan by those with an interest in pain, but few will feel compelled to buy it for their own shelves.

JW SCADDING


This third edition of a well known and established book is a substantial extension of earlier editions with new chapters and much up-dated material. The only reservation is that the extension is so great that it embraces almost the whole of operative neurosurgery which increasingly employs microsurgical techniques. The term microneurosurgery is therefore almost antique like speaking of aseptic surgery. The book therefore includes chapters with laboured associations with sensory evoked potentials and vasospasm and the latest developments such as nuclear magnetic resonance. There is also a great deal of repetition, difficult to avoid amongst many authors describing essentially the same techniques.

These are minor criticisms of a superbly presented, well bound, clearly printed and beautifully illustrated book. The photographs and line diagrams, particularly the diagrams, are of the high quality to be expected in books concerned with detailed exposition of fine structures. Indeed, they do more than decorate as they are chosen to amplify as well as illustrate the excellent text. Very few photographs are poor but figs 12.20, 31.37 and 31.38 are dreadful examples and should be removed from future editions.

The book is in eight sections. The one on general principles is first rate with two chapters on the surgical microscope and instrumentation and a valuable chapter on photography and television records. Hardly surprisingly acoustic tumours occupy a major part of the book and although there is little that has not been presented elsewhere nowhere else is there such detailed description of the various operative approaches in one volume. Nor is there much new in the section of cerebrovascular disease but the neurosurgical trainee will enjoy the clear descriptions and illustrations and particularly the sensible reasons given for particular manoeuvres. There is a small section on vertebral and spinal surgery including the final chapter on microdiscectomy. It is advocated as a safe way of training in microsurgery which appears as its only advantage.

There are profuse references and a good index. In short, this must be regarded as the standard work on microneurosurgery and should be in every neurosurgical library, at a price that makes it good value.

EDWARD HITCHCOCK


There is a much wider range of information on the pathology, diagnosis and treatment of glial brain tumours in this book than its title suggests. It represents the proceedings of the 1985 Autumn Congress held at the Neurosurgical Clinic in Mainz in honour of the 65th birthday of its Director, Professor Kurt Schurmann. There are separate sections on the special and comparative pathology of the gliomas, diagnostic methods, operative and radiation therapy, and finally chemotherapy. Inevitably, in such a volume there are a number of very brief papers, little more than abstracts, but there are also longer and helpful reviews with comprehensive and recent bibliographies. In this book the reader can find accounts of recent developments in diagnosis by computed tomography and by positron emission tomography, as well as treatment by microsurgery, stereotactic interstitial irradiation and results of chemotherapy from the EORTC Brain Tumour Group, the Scandinavian Glioblastoma Study and the International Society of Paediatric Oncology multicentre trial. A final section by one of the editors provides a summary of the significant results of the meeting.

Intrinsic brain tumours continue to present a daunting and often depressing challenge, leading in some cases to a rather nihilistic approach to their management. The least that the clinician owes to his patients is that he is aware of the current developments in the area; this book provides, in compact and convenient form, an up-to-date survey of what is happening in the field in Europe.

J DOUGLAS MILLER


On page 343, in a chapter dealing with back pain, it is stated that "clearly the foundation of treatment is strict bed-rest . . . for a minimum of two weeks and possibly considerably longer . . .". On page 352, in another chapter on spinal disorders from a neurosurgeon's point of view, the contributor writes that "many patients accept the fact that most back problems are not serious and that acute flare-ups come and go . . . they respond to encouragement and are no worse off for pushing ahead with tennis, golf, skiing, or sailing". These are just two different views typify the dilemma one faces with the patient with back pain, although readers are alerted "that the use of sunglasses indoors by a back pain patient is a bad prognostic sign" (page 338). The question must be whether this book with its title of Evaluation and Treatment of Chronic Pain helps us understand and manage common problems such as back pain. I rather doubt it.

Many of the topics have been written about many times before, and more rigorous editing would have pruned irrelevant material such as an account of gout, the immunology of rheumatoid arthritis, a discussion of ethical theory, and the basic principles of electromyography as expounded in a chapter on the "physiatric" approach to pain. A considerable proportion of the book is concerned with psychosocial aspects of pain management, and examples include contributions entitled "A cognitive-behavioral approach to chronic pain", "The social worker, family systems, and the chronic pain family" and "Chronic pain management; the nurse's role". What is not clear is whether these approaches actually help significant numbers of patients, and we are not given much information enabling us to judge.

It is difficult to form an overall impres-