

Many authors are referred to, and we are told that most of the sources were translated by Dr Bakay, some for the first time; their origin was the rare book collection of the State University of New York at Buffalo. It is unfortunate, however, that references to these texts are limited in the degree of detail necessary for scholarly use. The author interpolates quotations from Latin and other texts at frequent intervals. For what purpose? Is it to check the accuracy of translation or to lend an air of learning? There is seldom any linguistic problem. "... wounds in the middle portion of the head (in media capitis partum)" for instance, or "... covered with flesh (carne)". One is tempted to hoist Dr Bakay with his own petard by reference to his remark that "... although the wound surgeons quoted the old authorities, they did so mostly to show a semblance of erudition."

The development of craniotomy as a science rather than a craft, depended on advances in anatomical and physiological knowledge, and along with the chronological sequence of writings on the operative aspects, there are notes on the progress in these directions. Many brave surgeons operated on even braver patients long before neurosurgery as we know it became a possibility, and their efforts are given full credit.

This book would make an excellent present for any person concerned with cranial trauma or with an interest in the surgery of the nervous system. It is fascinating reading, and at the same time a pleasant source of relaxation.

PETER H SCHURR

**Concepts in Pediatric Neurosurgery Vol 6.** Edited by Paul H Chapman. (Pp 244; £54.40.) Basel: S Karger AG, 1985.

This smoothly running and beautifully turned out vehicle for the publication of selected papers which were presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery once more makes its annual appearance. It must be very difficult for the editor to choose the 20 or so papers from the many that were presented at the meeting. Nevertheless, there is a tendency for familiar names to recur in successive volumes. This is presumably because large departments of paediatric neurosurgery are likely to have much to offer, whether it be "Concepts" or summaries of experience.

The editor states in his preamble that "the subjects addressed were varied and at times

controversial as benefits a workshop format. The reader is heartily invited to join the intellectual skirmish..." It is not clear how one is to enter the "skirmish", but simply to read the papers is rewarding. Among the formidable challenges to paediatric neurosurgeons, the following are discussed: telemetric ICP measurement in patients with normal sized or enlarged ventricles, the management of congenital brain tumours, the reconstruction of large skull defects, surgical treatment of *moya moya* in children and atypical features with atypical management of childhood aneurysms.

Altogether this volume, like its predecessors, provides much of value for neurosurgeons who treat children. It is a pity that it costs almost as much as a year's subscription to most neurological or neurosurgical journals.

KENNETH TILL

**Neural Grafting in the Mammalian CNS. (Ferstrom Foundation Series.)** Edited by Anders Bjorklund and Ulf Stenevi. (Pp 728; \$157.50.) Amsterdam: Elsevier Science Publishers, 1985.

The concept of neuronal grafting in brain and the possibility of reinnervation of damaged tissue is one of the most exciting current growth areas in the neurosciences. The scientific content of this volume is of the highest quality and in the information it contains both educates and exhilarates the reader with the potential such techniques may hold for the future.

Most readers will presume that neuronal grafting in brain is a production of the neuroscience explosion of the last decade. However, in an informative historical introduction by the editors, it becomes clear that it is almost 100 years since the first experiments were undertaken. Key discoveries, such as the privileged immunological status of the brain found in the 1920s, are described so that the reader grasps the basis on which the recent experiments were undertaken.

The volume details the methodology utilised in neural grafting and then described the evidence for the immunological, histological and electrophysiological success that can be achieved using grafting techniques. There follows a series of chapters dealing with the specific application of neural grafting to dopaminergic and cholinergic systems and to endocrine systems. Of particular interest are the sections which indicate the relevance of such methodology to Parkinson's

disease and Alzheimer's disease. The functional success of neuronal grafts in restoring motor and learning deficits may herald major advances in disease treatment for the future. The volume also contains the details of the first grafts carried out on Parkinsonian patients. Although not dramatically successful, they indicate the application of methodology developed in animals to clinical use in man. If such technology is to gain acceptance in man there are obvious moral issues which are to be overcome involving the use of human foetal tissue in such transplantation. Otherwise, cell culture techniques may provide an answer or employing nerve growth factors may allow use of adult tissues which presently appear unsuitable.

The volume is a major work in the field of neural grafting. It is one which many will wish to consult. It is only unfortunate that the price will prohibit most individuals and many libraries from adding it to their collection.

P JENNER

**Behaviour and Pathology of Aging in Rhesus Monkeys. Monographs in Primatology Series Vol 8.** Edited by Roger T Davis and Charles W Leathers. (Pp 380; £67.00.) New York: Alan R Liss Inc, 1985.

With considerable increase of average life expectancy in many industrialised countries interest in research on ageing has expanded in recent years. This increased awareness is reflected not only by new journals, but also by monographs covering various aspects of senescence both in man and animal. The search to find an appropriate animal model has intensified and our closest relatives, the primates, present the most promising, and expensive, avenue to explore.

This volume in the series *Monographs in Primatology* examines the behaviour and pathology of ageing in rhesus monkeys. The emphasis is on pathology and the chapters are mostly grouped in sections on basic pathology and cell growth; brain, sense organs and behaviour; endocrine system; heart and lung, and bone and muscle. The concept of the book is modern and multidisciplinary, and is far removed from descriptive pathology. Readers of this Journal will find the chapters on the brain and behaviour and on muscles nearer to their interest than those dealing with other organs. The chapter on the neuropathological, neurochemical and behavioural studies is particularly informative and provides an essential reading for those interested in the ageing brain and demencias.

PL LANTOS