

This book is thus of interest to all who are concerned with mechanisms of memory, both from a fundamental research and from a clinical point of view. In spite of a wealth of detailed experimental and methodological discussion, it is entirely comprehensible to the non-specialist reader.

JD SINDEN

Cranial Nerves: A Systems Approach. By David W Garrison. (Pp 139; \$20.75.) Illinois: Charles C Thomas, 1986.

This small volume is dedicated "to the concept of efficient, accurate and functional educational processes" and attempts to replace the traditional approach of "memorising long lists and pieces of information" about individual nerves by a discussion of cranial nerve anatomy and function on a systems basis. The introduction provides an elementary overview of basic neurological terms (such as axon, afferent and efferent) and a brief summary of the anatomy and function of each cranial nerve. The remainder of the volume is divided into short tersely written chapters on motor innervation, sensory innervation, visceral sensory innervation, motor nuclei, sensory nuclei, etc. and is supplemented by abundant simple line drawings, tables and aspects. While the systems approach advocated in this book may be of value as an introduction to the cranial nerves for undergraduates in all branches of medicine, the presentation of the text appears to offer no great advantage over the traditional approach and appears merely an alternative way of compiling unending lists. The low price of the book would naturally attract medical undergraduates, but the oversimplified and sometimes confusing line drawings are of limited value to clinicians requiring a detailed working knowledge of cranial nerve anatomy.

DAVID JEFFERSON

Clinical Neurophysiology in Peripheral Neuropathies. (*Restorative Neurology Vol 3.*) Edited by PJ Delwaide and A Gorio. (Pp 173; \$130.00.) Amsterdam: Elsevier Biomedical Press, 1985.

This slim volume includes contributions from one of the sessions of a meeting on Restorative Neurology held in Venice in 1983. Its title is somewhat misleading since part of its contents relates to animal work and includes neuropathological and biochemical studies. It straddles uneasily the

vast field of neurobiology concerned with peripheral nerve responses to injury and the mechanisms of repair and regeneration, and the use of physiological techniques as a clinical tool in human disease. Some contributors have assumed a fairly sophisticated readership while others adopt a tone more appropriate for medical students.

There are considerable areas of overlap even though the chapters are rather short, and it is a pity that its distinguished contributors (who include Arrigo, Burke, Desmedt, Millesi and Ochoa) were clearly asked to give a brief over-view rather than to deal with restricted areas in rather more detail. This means that although it contains some interesting material the book does not really succeed either as a definitive text or as a well-focused synopsis of new ideas.

DL MCLELLAN

Manual of Neurologic Therapeutics. Edited by Martin A Samuels. (Pp 424; £15.90.) USA: Little Brown Inc; UK: Churchill Livingstone, 1986.

The author appears, in this text, to aim at providing a vade mecum, a small volume to carry and dip into to refresh one's memory as needed. Certainly it provides no new information for the experienced neurologist.

The book is provided with an adequate index, an essential for this type of volume. For the amount of information it contains it is cheap. Unfortunately, in some places the differences in neurological practice on either side of the Atlantic are all too evident. For example few neurologists in the UK would adopt the policy "Most patients who suffer their first seizure should be hospitalised for the initial evaluation". Similarly, I doubt whether most English neurologists would necessarily perform angiography "once a presumptive diagnosis of ischaemic infarction had been made."

G HARWOOD

Microsurgical Anastomoses for Cerebral Ischemia. Edited by Hajime Handa, Haruhiko Kikuchi and Yasuhiro Yonekawa. (Pp 393; £87.75.) New York: Igaku-Shoin; UK: Williams and Wilkins, 1985.

This is a beautifully printed and produced book containing the papers presented at the Sixth International Symposium on Microvascular Anastomoses for Cerebral Ischemia, held in September 1982, in Kyoto. It is

particularly unfortunate for all those concerned with the publication that it has taken so long for the book to appear because in the interim, the multi-centre trial on the efficacy of extracranial intracranial anastomoses has been published indicating that the operations are of no value in patients with degenerative cerebrovascular disease. As one might expect from a Japanese publication, there is an interesting section on moyo moyo disease. Blood flow studies seem to indicate that there is an improvement in flow after anastomoses in moyo moyo patients. Whether this proves to be of clinical value remains to be seen.

It seems unlikely that this publication will have wide appeal now. If it had been published two years ago it would have sold very well.

DJ THOMAS

Evoked Potential Primer: Visual, Auditory, and Somatosensory Evoked Potentials in Clinical Diagnosis. By Rainer Spehlmann. (Pp 400; £62.00.) Sevenoaks: The Butterworth Group, 1985.

It is with sadness that one reads of the death of the author of this book as it went to press. Sadness because this is a useful book and one which would have appeared in several subsequent and updated editions. The book was written for those who want to learn how to record and interpret evoked potentials and for those who are not directly involved in evoked potentials but who wish to become familiar with the methods and diagnostic abilities of the tests. It is for the latter group that the book has most to offer.

There are five sections; technical, visual, auditory and somatosensory evoked potentials and event and other potentials. Each has a substantial list of references to original work totalling 1560 in all and constituting a most valuable part of the book. However the novice might have hoped to be directed to established and authoritative works for his further reading especially to some of the excellent texts dealing with technical matters. Most of the technical limitations and pitfalls are described but with a brevity which will induce some learning but no understanding. The short section on how EPs are generated is the least satisfactory part of the book.

The clinical sections have the virtue of setting down in one short space the findings in all diseases so far studied with references to the original work. Some critical assessment of the publications is included and