much of the first five chapters, whilst the material relating more specifically to speech control and its pathology is of more interest. Chapter 6, on treatment of the dysarthrias, is worthy of the attention of a wide variety of readers. It emphasises that specific rehabilitation and treatment of this particular motor skill, which may be severely disabling, is beginning to be underpinned by a physiologically rational approach and may sometimes be rewarding.

This volume will be of interest to some specialist libraries, but it is to be hoped that Dr Netsell will, in a few years time, produce a book describing his subject in more particular detail than he has been able to here.

RJ GREENWOOD

Differential Approaches in Microsurgery of the Brain. By Wolfgang Seeger (Pp 414; $98.00.) Vienna: Springer-Verlag, 1985.

This book is designed as an illustrated manual of microvascular neurosurgery, in which alternative surgical approaches to a number of central and basal intracranial lesions are discussed, together with the factors outlining the choice of approach. Professor Seeger largely achieves his aim, but perhaps could have done so rather more concisely.

The book takes the form of a series of carefully labelled figures, some 200 in all and most of them comprising multiple line drawings, apparently the work of the author exclusively. The routes of approach to lesions, principally arteriovenous malformations or benign neoplasms are shown, usually as line diagrams of coronal or sagittal sections. These are accompanied by drawings of the appearances through the microscope at surgery ("microsurgical topography"): in many cases these illustrate several stages of a procedure. The figures are comprehensively labelled, and some are accompanied by a very limited commentary on the facing pages. There is an introductory section which discusses and illustrates the anatomical basis on which the main material of the book is classified; anterior, middle and posterior segments of the dorsal cisterns and fissures, middle and posterior segments of the lateral cisterns (the cerebellopontine cisterns fall into this latter category), and anterior, middle and posterior segments of the basal cisterns.

The quality of the drawings of microscopic topography is quite outstanding and must surely place the author high among the ranks of surgical artists. However, CT scans and angiograms have also been transcribed as line drawings or simple sketches. This is much less successful; the displacements illustrated will be familiar to many readers, the quality of the drawings is variable, and they contribute relatively little.

The arguments for and against particular routes of approach are tabulated in note form among the figure labels, sometimes with unfamiliar abbreviations, and this does not always make for clarity. Since the "differential approach" forms the basis of the book, this element could usefully have been expanded in the form of a short paragraph on the facing page, where ample space is available. The orientation of most, but by no means all diagrams is adequate.

The quality of translation into English is not always adequate, for example "basal" for basilar artery, "thick calibrated vessels", "sugillations" in the wall of the third ventricle.

The aim of the book is to consider alternative approaches to problematical lesions, and it is not designed for the novice micro-neurosurgeon. By implication it would be used for reference when surgery for less familiar lesions is planned. However, the indexing and chapter headings provide insufficient information to provide easy access. For example, a glomus jugulare tumour and an acoustic neuroma are illustrated, but receive no mention in the index or chapter headings. Again, the relative merits of the sitting and lateral decubitus positions for CP angle surgery are not considered.

Although this book is clearly based on very considerable surgical experience and perception, its style will not appeal to all readers and anyone considering purchasing it would be well advised to assess it for themselves with some care.

AJ STRONG


Surface Dyslexia serves as the sister volume to Deep Dyslexia (1980) edited by the same authors. Both books are concerned with how a printed word is translated into its sound counterpart, distinguishing at least two separate processes whereby reading is accomplished. The earlier volume is concerned with deficits in reading based on processes which "look up" a particular word-sound rendering from a store of known words, the entry being specific to that word. Such processes appear necessary to explain how uniquely spelled words (e.g. yacht, cache) are read. In contrast Surface Dyslexia concentrates on processes that utilise sub-word size components; these letter(s) to sound correspondences overlap within many words and appear necessary for reading nonsense syllables such as "blimp" and "slunk".

The book comprises a collection of original contributions from many of the leading research workers in the field. As such, it provides the latest state of the art, complete with extensive references after each chapter. The emphasis is most definitely cognitive rather than neurological, the authors sharing a common information-processing approach to the study of abnormal and normal reading processes. The focus of such an approach lies in fine-grained quantitative analysis of individual case studies whereby a particular stage in the reading process is pinpointed by experimental manipulation of the relevant variables. Gone are the days when a patient might be reported in descriptive terms for "interest's sake"; model building and complex theories are most definitely the stuff that the modern cognitive neuropsychologist's dreams are made.

The book is well organised into six sections, each of which is provided with a brief introduction. A general overview is given at the beginning, along with a minimal process model of reading (illustrated on the book jacket cover) to which all, or most, contributors roughly adhere. I particularly enjoyed the historical review introducing the first section and welcomed the inclusion of a phonetic alphabet in American, British English and French presented at the beginning of the book.

Three case studies (Part I) by D Bub et al., E Newcombe and JC Marshall, and E Saffron illustrate the diversity of patterns that may emerge in surface dyslexic patients. In contrast the four case studies in Part II (by J Kay and KE Patterson, H Kremen, Dl Margolin et al., and MC Goldblum) provide a warning to those who may fall into the trap of equating symptoms with deficits. These latter patients' reading problems appear to reflect more general difficulties with naming, as attested by their accurate comprehension of many of the words they mispronounce. At this point in the book it may be worthwhile consulting T Shallice and R McCarthy's (p363) classification of patients who read from sound in order to aid the reader conceptualise the different subtypes of patients.

Surface dyslexia in an orthographically