The book opens with three chapters of history taking, physical examination and investigation. Following this are eight chapters dealing with different symptom complexes such as headache, altered awareness, visual disturbance, vertigo, etc. The remaining chapters deal with specific neurological disorders. A comprehensive coverage is achieved with little overlap between these two sections. Inevitably some areas are covered better than others and since this is essentially a book about outpatient neurology it is excellent for the doctor approaching the dizzy outpatient, but less helpful for dealing with the patient in status epilepticus.

There are two criticisms to be made. One is the idiosyncratic suggestions for further reading at the end of each chapter which the author admits to in the introduction. They are an interesting mixture of modern reviews and classic papers but some are too obscure for a general textbook; *Acta Neurol Belg* cannot be readily available! The other criticism is that typographical errors are frequent enough to be noticeable and at times confusing, for example the suggestion that the ECG, as opposed to the EEG, is a redundant procedure in the investigation of stroke. However these criticisms are minor points in what is an excellent book. It is suggested in the introduction that the level of information is appropriate for the undergraduate and recently qualified doctor. I would suggest that it will also be useful for the less recently qualified doctor and an essential companion to anyone when first faced with neurology outpatients.

MARTIN ROSSER

Calcium, Neuronal Function and Transmitter Release. (*Topics in Neurosciences Series*) Edited by Rami Rahamimoff and Bernard Katz. (Pp 612; £51.75.) Dordrecht: Martinus Nijhoff, 1986.

This volume records a symposium that took place in Jerusalem in August 1984. It provides, in camera-ready format, 8 chapters on channels and transporters, 7 chapters on calcium and transmitter release, 9 chapters on calcium and exocytosis, 7 chapters on calcium-dependent mechanisms and 12 "free communications". The discussion following each contribution is reported. A very distinguished group of physiologists participated in this meeting and the volume conveys the atmosphere of an effective workshop with much discussion of technical

matters and welcome periods of speculation.

The emphasis throughout is on electrophysiological approaches and mathematical modelling. Thus several papers discuss the influence of $[Ca^{++}]$ on potassium currents and others develop the ideas of Dodge and Rahamimoff on the cooperative interaction of Ca^{++} at a receptor triggering quantal release. There is no discussion of the molecular biology of the relevant receptors and ionophore. There are very little pharmacological data presented. Chapters by Robert DeLorenzo and colleagues and by Jonathan Pincus describe the effects of benzodiazepines and phenytoin on synaptosomal calcium fluxes and the possible significance of this in anticonvulsant actions. Calcium entry blockers are not presented in any detail. (They have been very adequately reviewed in several recent volumes). The role of calcium in epilepsy is not considered, but this has been the subject of a recent volume edited by Speckmann, Schulze & Walden. There is very little material relating to the role of calcium as a metabolic regulator and none concerning its role in excitotoxicity.

This volume could be of value to doctoral and post-doctoral workers in the field of calcium and neurotransmitter release, particularly those who were unable to attend the symposium. It provides for them a convenient contact with key issues and personalities. With the widespread availability of photocopiers, video tapes, floppy discs and desk top publishing surely we should be able to devise faster and more economical methods of achieving this goal?

BS MELDRUM

Neuroradiology 1985-86. Proceedings of the XIIIth Congress of the European Society of Neuroradiology, Amsterdam, 11-15 September 1985 (International Congress Series 698). Edited by J Valk. (Pp 392; \$83.25.) Amsterdam: Elsevier Science Publishers, 1986.

Conference proceedings are big business, an established branch of modern medical publishing. Nowadays the product looks like a textbook although of course the contents belong in the journals. Personally I see no harm in this deception (lamb being dressed up as mutton, so to speak) provided that the customer realises what he is buying.

This book is a selection of the papers presented in Amsterdam in September 1985 at the 13th Congress of the European Society

of Neuroradiology. It is an almost emotive declaration of the state of the art, documenting the remarkable expansion of neuroradiology and indicating that that name itself is now a misnomer, "neuro-imaging" being the more appropriate title. The subject matter of the 50 papers underlines this fact: magnetic resonance imaging, 19; investigative radiology, 14; ultrasound and Doppler studies, 5; computed tomography, 4; digital angiography, 2; positron emission tomography, 2; myelography, and other, 2. It is remarkable to reflect, so rapid has been the progress in all new directions, that only five of the 50 papers would have been presented if this congress had taken place 15 years ago.

Many of the technical papers involve neuroradiologists (that is, neuro-imagers) only such as details of operating digital vascular apparatus and scanners including data collection and choosing substances and catheters for transluminal angioplasty and fistula occlusion. However, the wider diagnostic and therapeutic options offered by the newer methods are bound to interest neurologists and neurosurgeons, particularly the diagnosis by CT and MR imaging and the treatment by chemonucleolysis of prolapsed intervertebral discs; the obliteration of surgically inaccessible arteriovenous malformations by the balloon technique; and the demonstration of a wider range of complications of cerebrovascular accidents by MR imaging.

The papers dealing with magnetic resonance help to breach the pre-MR mystery surrounding the white-matter of the brain, the brainstem and cerebellum, and the spinal cord. There is something for everyone in George du Boulay's classification of white matter diseases and his attempt to analyse the causes of the MR appearances of abnormal areas of the brain.

EH BURROW

Head Trauma: Educational Reintegration. By Christine Duncan Rosen, Joan P Gerring. (Pp 150; £14.00.) Basingstoke: Taylor & Francis, 1986.

This book is written by an educationalist and a psychiatrist, and describes their experiences in paediatric rehabilitation in the Kennedy Institute for Handicapped Children in Baltimore, Maryland. It contains a review of the authors' experience in attempting to return severely head injured children to school, and as such, it is first rate.