

more patients are scanned by MRI and even smaller lesions are visualised. The section on vascular dementia is conducted without a definition of dementia which rather undermines the discussion on infarct location and neuropsychological deficit. For instance, if memory impairment is taken as a *sine qua non* of dementia, then most patients will have bilateral damage. Nor are problems of clinical definition resolved in the section on chronic cerebrovascular disorders where, if I understand it correctly, the Hachinski scale is applied to patients who are not demented. This seems extraordinary and the results serve to illustrate the danger of applying rating scales to clinical problems for which they were never intended.

The second and more compact section of the book includes proceedings from the Winston-Salem conference on "the Clinical Value of Diagnostic Testing for the Evaluation of Patients with Stroke", which took place in May 1985. Little is new and much is contentious. We are told that the diagnosis of TIA cannot be made solely on clinical grounds and that every patient needs a CT scan, ultra sound vascular examination, angiography and a cardiological and haematological work-up: investigations which are considered mandatory in deciding appropriate management. This confident stand is maintained despite the absence of any discussion on the relative merits of various types of intervention. There follows a chapter of the management of acute brain infarction which is equally didactic (we are told to give heparin—unless contraindicated—to all patients with early brain infarction) and poorly referenced. The indications for EC/IC bypass surgery are clearly identified but, regrettably, wrong. The chapter on the management of cerebral haemorrhage is dictatorial, rather than didactic, and at times sounds like a recipe for turning mortality into severe morbidity.

The book ends with recommendations for the clinical management of cerebrovascular disease and here we return to the central crisis of research in stroke. We are pretty certain the treatment of hypertension has been of paramount importance in the observed decline in the incidence of stroke. It is also clear that aspirin seems to reduce the incidence of subsequent stroke in men presenting with TIAs. We do not know if carotid endarterectomy is a useful operation and until we do, further investment in carotid imigary remains of debatable value.

Finally, EC/IC bypass surgery does not prevent subsequent infarction in patients with symptomatic, severe, inaccessible carotid disease. The new technology may lead

to breakthroughs in our understanding of stroke and may even suggest alternative therapies. But those therapies need to be evaluated within the setting of prospective controlled clinical trials. There is little insistence in this book about the need for clinical trials and as a consequence much dogma masquerades as fact. This is unfortunate in a book published under the auspices of the World Federation of Neurology.

JOHN WADE

**The Facial Nerve.** Edited by Mark May. (Pp 819; DM 248.00). Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1986.

It is through our faces that we communicate many of our thoughts and feelings and any disturbance of the facial nerve can cause disabilities out of all proportion to simple lack of movement in the small muscle mass. The word "personality" is derived from the Greek word *persona* — the mask worn by actors in ancient drama, and it can be argued that the facial nerve is the most important motor nerve in the body. This book deals mainly with the surgical management of facial nerve disorders and draws on the experience of Dr May, the main author, in managing over 1,500 patients with facial palsy over the course of 20 years. Forty-one other authors, mainly from the United States, provide chapters individually or in association with Dr May. The book is divided into sections. The first 180 pages on applied basic science deal with embryology, anatomy and physiology, including the neurobiology of nerve and muscle degeneration and regeneration. The next section covers assessment of facial nerve function by clinical, neurophysiological and radiological methods. The main part of the book comprises sections totalling over 350 pages dealing with the management of facial palsy, the management of abnormal facial movements, surgery on and around the facial nerve and lastly procedures to correct effects of facial palsies. Different surgical approaches to the same problems are considered and it is in these central sections that the book excels. Finally there is a section dealing with the emotional effects of facial palsy, and the medico-legal aspects. The book is lavishly illustrated in all sections and has a remarkable uniformity of style and presentation probably due to Dr May having contributed to 24 of the 41 chapters. This reviewer's adverse comments are that although there is a chapter on the neurological causes of

facial palsy this is very brief, and that disorders of facial movement not responsive to surgical treatment are poorly covered. The neurosurgical chapter on surgery of the facial nerve is also a bit light. The book appears to be directed more towards otologists than neurosurgeons but can be strongly recommended for all those involved in investigation and treatment of facial nerve palsies. The hard back volume is very well presented and can be strongly recommended as a handsome addition to any medical library.

RD ILLINGWORTH

**Neuro-psychological Rehabilitation.** Edited by Manfred J Meier, Arthur L Benton, Leonard Diller. (Pp 475; £45.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1986.

This multiauthor book is edited by three of the most influential workers in clinical neuropsychology, and in the words of the editor it was designed to "...help clarify the current state of knowledge and application...and encourage researchers and clinicians to focus their energies towards pursuing a major new direction for both neuropsychology and rehabilitation...". It has achieved its goal in part. The 26 chapters are organised into three main parts. The first deals with assessment and methodological issues; the second with representative research and application; and the third with a description of neuropsychological rehabilitation programmes in the United States, Europe, Scandinavia, and Japan. The first part is rather mixed. Some of the individual chapters are very good indeed (for example, that by Meier on *Individual Differences...*, as are Lezak's chapter on *Assessment for Rehabilitation Planning*, and Diller's on *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation*). Nevertheless, as a group they do not appear to gell, and read as an interesting collection of individual papers, rather than contributions towards a coherent theme. The second part is by and large much more impressive, with authors dealing with the identification, understanding, and remediation of fundamental cognitive and related behavioural deficits. It is very difficult to single out any individual chapter for praise in this section, as they are all of high quality. The last part is very difficult for any one person to review, containing as it does an account of rehabilitation in various parts of the world. This reviewer has detailed knowledge of the reha-