This book is of special value to paediatricians, radiologists, neuropathologists, neurologists and neurosurgeons, whether established or in training. It provides a valuable reference for every day practice as well as in teaching preparation. It is also useful reading for those in allied fields, who may have to deal with some of the effects of these disorders including for example, orthopaedic, plastic and urological surgeons.

Despite its price, I cannot recommend this book strongly enough for neuroradiologists and neurosurgeons with a substantive paediatric practice who should obtain a personal copy. It should find a place in medical school, children's hospitals and departmental libraries.

AD HOCKLEY


There are too many bad books being published. This is an example of one. It has a weighty and inviting title, but is merely the proceedings of a symposium on neurotraumatology and rather a poor one at that. Publishers should be honest with titles.

The symposium, held in Sweden, had the usual luminaries contributing. The book is a collection of their papers, presumably in abbreviated form, many of which have been heard before. Although some of these are worthwhile, the one on the Experimental Models of Head Injury being an example, the majority are barely worth reading. The papers on practical management are superficial and of little value.

I find it difficult to say much good about this book. Perhaps it would have been better had it not been published.

S GALBRAITH


The outstanding and welcome feature of this book is that it brings together many topics of clinical importance in one volume, previously described in different text books. Congenital abnormalities and especially those of the central nervous system, are a major cause of mortality and morbidity in children. The authors have collected appropriate multi-disciplinary and expert contributors to provide a most comprehensive text of these conditions.

The basic sciences of embryology, genetics, physiology and pathology are especially well covered, in addition to radiological investigation, medical and surgical management. The illustrations are excellent with clear diagrams, good pathological and clinical photographs and up to date radiology including ultrasound, CT and MR scanning. A very adequate bibliography is also included.


This book contains the papers presented at the symposium of the Rhineland-Westphalian Society of Nuclear Medicine held in Bonn, West-Germany, in October 1984. The idea of the symposium and the book was to summarise the achievements obtained during the first few years of applying SPECT (single photon emission computed tomography) scanning techniques using radio-labelled amphetamines and related compounds.

The first 11 papers are dedicated to basic research topics. Four north American and seven European groups present their data. The last seven papers are all from central European groups and deal with clinical results.

The character of the book inevitably results in much variability of quality of the papers and a lack of balance between the topics. Also difficult to avoid are the many repetitions which occur in introductory descriptions of methods and discussions. The book itself is well produced but the price is very high considering the small volume and its limitations.

Most of the papers in the first section discuss the radionlabelling of the various derivatives of amphetamines (mainly 123IIMP) and their production, uptake mechanisms, biodistribution, tissue kinetics and metabolism. The short but good paper by Baldwin and colleagues discusses the possible mechanisms of retention of the amphetamines. They show that the "pH shift" mechanism cannot be responsible for the retention of this class of tracer in the brain. Since 123I HIPP (and 203TI DDC are dealt with only briefly, without firm knowledge of their respective retention mechanisms, the title of the book seems not quite appropriate. A good short review of IMP uptake in human brain is given by Bischof-Delaloye and Delaloye. These authors conclude that "even if IMP is not distributed to and within the brain according to blood flow there is no doubt that other phenomena than flow and probably also other labelled compounds than IMP itself (metabolites) play a role in the final scintigraphic appearance of the brain". Neurinckx and colleagues provide a good review of the requirements of SPECT tracer compounds discussing blood-brain barrier passage and brain trapping mechanisms. They describe in more detail 99mTc labelled analogues of PA0. Knapp and Srivastava outline new approaches for the development of "imaging" agents to be used in SPECT scanning. The last two papers of the first section deal with the instrumental problems inherent in SPECT cameras. A good comparison is given between rotating gamma camera and multi detector scanners. Also the influence of several types of collimation on the quality of data collection is nicely discussed.

The second (clinical) section is not quite convincing. It is several times stated that...
SPECT brain images using IMP and other compounds relate to cerebral blood flow and that thus the most promising applications of this technique concern cerebrovascular diseases. However, two papers deal with brain tumours, one with epilepsy, and three present only a few case reports of patients with vascular problems. The last paper only (using HIPDM) mentions a larger number of cerebrovascular patients but is rather superficial. In general the clinical significance of the scan results is not clear; abnormal patterns of radionucleide distribution may be proportionate within (unknown) limits to tissue perfusion disturbances, but only speculations are given on how that information can be used in a clinical setting. A big handicap is that no absolute quantitation can be achieved with SPECT. It has to be admitted, however, that the data presented in the book are preliminary. On the other hand Schoder and colleagues present a nice study comparing 123I-IMP SPECT, conventional 99mTc-DTPA scans and 11C-methionine PET scans in a group of brain tumour patients.

It is a pity that this book appeared so late: the SPECT field has shown many developments since the symposium was held. IMP is hardly used anymore and is replaced by technetium labelled PAO derivatives which are easier and cheaper to produce and have several other advantages. Still the book is a good introduction for those who wish to obtain an overview of the complexity of "functional imaging".

K.L. LEENDERS


This is a good moment for a monograph on Duchenne muscular dystrophy to appear. Modern genetics has identified this elusive gene, and the success of this work has focused the attention of many people on the disorder, in addition to those who encounter it in their regular practice.

Alan Emery has long experience of the condition, partly from his major contributions to research on the genetic aspects, partly from involvement in the management of patients and their families. This broad experience makes for a balanced and sympathetic account of the disorder, which is of special value in bringing together a wealth of information previously scattered throughout the scientific literature.

The book takes us through the historical development of our knowledge, gives much information on clinical aspects and natural history, and discusses in detail the genetics, and such practical aspects as carrier and prenatal detection. It then gives a full, clear and extremely up to date account of the molecular genetics work that has identified the gene, something that will be of particular value for clinicians unfamiliar with the power of these new genetic approaches.

The section on biochemical and other experimental work appears, inevitably, rather flat by contrast with these advances. One suspects that much of this will require reassessment when we finally identify the gene product.

All neurologists will benefit from reading this book and most will wish to buy it. The developments in Duchenne muscular dystrophy today will undoubtedly be a parallel for other neurological disorders tomorrow. Both author and publisher should be congratulated on a valuable, enjoyable and timely book.

PETER HARPER


This is the 3rd volume in the series and has brought together chapters by experienced workers on specific clinical entities, concepts and current advances. The opening chapters are reviews of important CNS topics: sella and temporal bone, cerebral ischaemia and infarction, and head and neck haemorrhage. They account for one-third of the book content, are very detailed and well presented. A chapter on paediatric disease is divided almost equally between CNS and other systems. The special problems of imaging children are discussed briefly before illustrating clinical utilisation. There are useful chapters on MRI of the female pelvis and one on its use in musculoskeletal primary malignant tumours.

The longest chapter is on MR angiography. The basic principles are described in detail as is the authors' practical approach to flow imaging. Finally, the use of contrast agents and the current state of imaging at very high fields are discussed. These three chapters on developmental areas provide a fund of information and a sound basis of knowledge for these involved in, or contemplating such work.

Overall, the book has attained a very high standard, the illustrations are of good quality and the standard of production excellent.

There has been no attempt to overstate the usefulness of MRI, a balanced view having been maintained throughout. It is a book for the specialist in the field of MRI to whom it is recommended.

P MACPHERSON


This book, the most recent in the series of Wolfe Medical atlases, is produced by Dr Asif Kamal, a consultant geriatrician in Lincoln. It is not clear for whom the book is intended although in the preface the author expresses the hope that it will be of value to all those who are concerned with treatment and rehabilitation of stroke patients.

In creating an atlas, one of the greatest difficulties is to ensure that the text is succinct, relevant and to the point enhancing and explaining the photographs which are included. Unfortunately the present book fails in each of these criteria. There is repetition on many of the pages of text, irrelevant advances of both text and photographs and inaccuracies in the description of the incidence of the prevalence of stroke disease, its investigation and management.

An atlas will succeed or fail on the standard of photographs and diagrams which are used but in this volume some of the diagrams are inaccurate, many are rather childish like and some photographs appear on more than one occasion with different titles. The juxtaposition of certain photographs such as one of the eyes showing a left dilated pupil described as due to intra-cranial haemorrhage next to one showing eyes with a right dilated pupil being due to sub-dural haematoma will serve only to infuriate those with medical knowledge and confuse those without it. The precise reasons for showing a radial, an ulnar and a medial nerve palsy without explanation but as indicative of the flaccid weakness of stroke seem difficult to understand and the fact that in the section on radiology of vascular disease there are three skull radiographs, the first of which shows an enlarged pituitary fossa and the other two a sphenoidal wing meningioma seems inappropriate. In short one is left with the impression that the volume has provided the author with an opportunity to reproduce his collection of slides without too much thought as to the content.

The sections on physiotherapy, speech therapy and rehabilitation at the end of the