Book reviews

SPECT brain images using IMP and other compounds relate to cerebral blood flow and that thus the most promising applications of this technique concerns 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 radionuclide distribution may be proportionate within (unknown) limits to tissue perfusion disturbances, but only speculations are given 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 Schober and colleagues present a nice study comparing ^{123}I IMP SPECT, conventional $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -DTPA scans and ^{11}C -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".

KL LEENDERS

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. By Alan EH Emery. (Pp 313; £35.00.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987.

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

Magnetic Resonance Annual 1987. Edited by Herbert Y Kressel. (Pp 300; \$79.50.) New York: Raven Press, 1986.

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

A Colour Atlas of Stroke: Cerebrovascular Disease and its Management. By Asif Kamal. (Pp 224; £32.00.) London: Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd, 1987

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, irrelevancies 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 child-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

book are more useful but I am surprised by the fact that a table is produced showing the assessment of risk of development of bed sores without any mention being made of the various clinical assessments of severity or recovery of stroke.

The photographs in the book are well produced but the volume cannot be recommended to physicians involved in the care of patients with stroke and nor can I see it being used by paramedical personnel because the language used in the text is inappropriately complicated.

DAVID BATES

Evoked Potentials *Frontiers of Clinical Neuroscience Vol 3*. Edited by Roger Q Cracco, Ivan Bodis-Wollner. (Pp 564; £70.00.) New York: Alan R Liss Inc, 1986.

This book, volume 3 in the series, is of a different generation and has an aim very different from the standard works on clinical evoked potentials, such as Halliday's and Chiappa's volumes, published a few years ago. The authors of this work have attempted, largely successfully, to select what is relevant, interesting and important in the field, whether basic or clinical. The book is not intended to be all-encompassing but a great deal is covered in the 49 chapters, by no less than 99 contributors. The great majority of the contributors are from North America, with Italy and Israel particularly well represented among the rest. All the contributors are well known for their work on the aspects of EPs which they here review, describe or discuss according to their preference.

There are eight sections in the book: methodology, animal models, anatomy, biochemistry and pharmacology, differential diagnosis, surgical monitoring, paediatrics, and cognitive disorders. Though the reason for placing some contributors in their particular section seems somewhat arbitrary at times, this arrangement works reasonably well on the whole. I certainly found, when searching for a particular chapter that my attention was frequently caught by an interesting or relevant page or illustration in one of the adjacent chapters.

Most of the workers whom one would hope to find in a major work on clinical and basic science of EPs are here and it is both a pleasure and a great convenience to have in a single volume such diverse workers as Lehmann on spatial analysis, Kaufmann and Williamson on the neuromagnetic field, Maffei and Fiorentini on the pattern ERG,

Yamada *et al* on bilateral stimulation for SEPs and Blumhardt on the VEP and visual field defects, to choose a few at random. There is much of interest in all eight sections—perhaps that termed Anatomy has the most to offer for the clinician apart from the obviously clinical sections, with, for example, Møller and Jannetta on the BAEP, followed in sequence by Desmedt, Kimura and colleagues, and Burke and Gandevia on various SEP aspects. The section entitled Differential Diagnosis is generally good and contains a real gem of a short chapter by Picton, classifying BAEP abnormalities. Surprisingly the smallest section is that on surgical monitoring, with only two contributors, both on the SEP, and no mention of BAEP monitoring or the more problematical VEP.

The arrival of this work is timely since certain aspects of the EP field seem likely to undergo critical reappraisal in the near future. In the USA if not yet in Britain, the rapid increase in availability of magnetic resonance imaging is bound to be accompanied by a decrease in the use of EPs for diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. Event related potentials, for years a candidate for growth, have still to establish a clinical role, and though there has been a remarkable recent increase in commercial averagers with facilities for topographical display of EPs, and thus for generation of pretty pictures, there are many who have reservations about the true value of this technique. This book is packed with interesting material and is in general well produced; the price is reasonable. It will be of great value to clinical neurophysiologists wishing to improve their understanding of basic mechanisms, pondering new ideas for research or aiming to improve their routine clinical service.

NMF MURRAY

Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Central Nervous System. Edited by Michael Brandst-Zawadzki, David Norman. (Pp 300; \$103.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1986.

As might be expected with a multiauthor book this one suffers from a certain amount of repetition. Although aimed at residents and practising radiologists there is more than enough technical detail in the first nine chapters, which occupy over one third of the book, to satisfy any other than someone who has to devote much of his practise to MRI. However, these chapters are well writ-

ten and easy to understand and the chapter on artefacts is very detailed and will be particularly useful. My only regret is that the sequences used are only spin echoes. Inversion recovery is not mentioned because it is not commonly used in the United States.

The clinical section from chapters 10 to 20 are somewhat unbalanced, 140 pages being devoted to diseases of the head and only 50 to the spine. Since tissue characterisation and experience of disease patterns is sometimes limited, many of the head sections devote much space to clinical background and relatively little to MRI appearances. On the other hand the two chapters devoted to the spine are very good and full of useful MRI detail and could well have been enlarged. The last two chapters deal with the nasopharynx and neck. Although useful, I find it strange that they are included but no space is found for consideration of the petrous bone or orbit.

Overall, however, it is a well written book full of useful information. In some areas it is more detailed than strictly necessary and in others there is too much padding. However, it is well worth reading and despite its cost it to be recommended by anyone who is going to be regularly involved in MRI.

DPE KING

Aging with a Disability. By Robert Trieschmann. (Pp 156; \$24.95.) New York: Demos Publications, 1987.

The title suggests an important and neglected field, of which this book provides mere glimpses. As a psychologist the author writes convincingly about personal problems of advancing disability. The predominance of spinal injury reflects her own interests, and she should have resisted the temptation to add vague generalisations on an assortment of other conditions such as multiple sclerosis. The overall prognosis and the progressive increase of medical problems in spinal injury and other causes of so-called static disability is an important topic from a practical point of view. The author is hampered by the scarcity of existing information, and also by an obvious lack of clinical perspective. The tendency of seemingly static central nervous system disorders (especially but not exclusively poliomyelitis) to enter a phase of late progression raises issues not only of practical but also of general theoretical interest. The author recognises these issues but proves incompetent to discuss them in any depth.