Reginald Kelly enjoins his longstanding argument with the late Henry Miller over the nosology of accident neurosis and to those involved in the assessment of litigants following head injury the chapter presents a very useful review. He discusses the problem of post-traumatic migraine and if I interpret his writing correctly, is unconvinced that migraine does follow head injury which, if correct, has significant medical-legal implications.

Cervical spine disorders are often blamed for headaches of various distributions and types and John Balla, after considering the pathophysiology of such headaches, gives I feel a very reasonable and acceptable outline of those forms of headache which can genuinely be thought to have their origin in cervical spinal pathology.

The contribution of psychiatry towards the understanding of facial pain and headache, problems in assessing headache treatment and the sociological implications of headache constitute the last three chapters.

The overall impression is that this book is comprehensive, enjoyable to read and accurate. Through historical surveys and the author's own experience those views currently accepted in neurologic practice on the origin, investigation and treatment of the various types of pain which occur in and around the head and face are clearly expressed. I feel that the multi-authorship does allow a more comprehensive survey of the subject but I hope that further monographs in the series will revert to the limited authorship displayed by the first 14 volumes. Multi-author textbooks are now the rule. Individual monographs which express the special interest, the experience and knowledge of one or two authors will carry more authority.

JB FOSTER

Dystonia. (Advances in Neurology Vol 50.)

The second volume in this series on dystonia will be read widely. As is nicely documented in a chapter on epidemiology, this is a common disorder that all clinicians deal with frequently so they wish to be updated. In the 12 years since the first volume significant advances have been made, though we can all reasonably hope that the next decade will see an acceleration in acquiring knowledge, as our understanding of the physiology and biochemistry of dystonia remains feeble.

At last, with botulinus toxin, there has been a significant advance in treatment for focal dystonia and this aspect is covered in several chapters. Clinical aspects of many forms of dystonia are discussed with special interest in dopa-responsive dystonia; one relevant point made is that not all of these patients vary diurnally and so it may be commoner than previously realised. Imaging is discussed and the useful point made that hemidystonia is usually symmetric so CT and MRI can be justified in such cases. Classification of the primary and secondary dystonias is discussed at length; the former will be of considerable interest to clinical neurologists and the latter important to plan sensible investigation of the individual patient. A chapter on psychological dystonia I hope was meant to be controversial as not many of the cases sound convincing. Various proposed animal models of varying usefulness are described including a nice review of models of neuroleptic-induced dystonia. Several chapters on what hopefully will be the beginning of a fruitful trail on the molecular biology of these conditions are present, as are some on biochemical studies on CSF and brain; neither angle has as yet any important messages except that it is clear that on both sides of the Atlantic resources are being pooled such that instructive families and tissue are more likely to be available to interested parties which, especially for the rarer forms of dystonia, will be crucial to the unravelling of these diseases. The finale is a delightful section on the history and art of dystonia.

The movement disorder crowd will want a copy of this volume for themselves and most clinical neurologists will enjoy a browse.

ADRIAN WILLIAMS


A detailed description of the anatomy of the blood supply and venous drainage of the spinal cord is presented in this book and the physiological consequences of the anatomical arrangement are discussed. Pathological processes affecting the circulation and in particular, the various types of angiomas, arteriovenous anomalies, compressive lesions and vascular obstructions are discussed in the light of modern knowledge.

The book is logically arranged, well written and beautifully illustrated with photographs and diagrams of the surface vessels, injected specimens and excellent radiographs, which are mainly angiograms of normals and of various pathologies discussed. All the illustrations are labelled and well described. The literature discussed is up-to-date and the book provides a clear exposition of current knowledge of the vascular system of the spinal cord and its disturbance by various pathologies.

Obviously, the book is essential reading for neuroradiologists with a particular interest in spinal angiography. The author deals with the clinical aspects of the spinal cord disorders, and in particular with the pathophysiology of angiomata malformations and the mechanisms of production of symptoms. The book is good value for money and is recommended to all neuroradiologists and other clinicians who wish to acquire a clearer understanding of the subject.

BRIAN KENDALL


This is basically a practical work book for those interested in speech and language. Sixty-three case studies are presented from which the student has to analyse relevant symptoms and signs, then make an anatomical diagnosis. The "solution" is then discussed, somewhat briefly.

In the introduction the authors attempt to define aphasia, dysarthria and apraxia, but there is disproportionate emphasis on dysarthria and no mention of dysphonia.

Broca's aphasia and apraxia of speech are not adequately distinguished nor is there any discussion on transcortical aphasias.

Despite the attractive presentation this book would elicit nothing but boredom and irritation from a clinical neurologist. For students of speech therapy it would have more interest but the lack of balance and omissions of important topics would make this book difficult to recommend.

CH HAWKES