therapists, is intended for students and qualified physiotherapists and attempts to provide a scientific explanation of pain mechanisms, the action of drugs and other medical measures used in the treatment of pain, in addition to reviewing physiotherapeutic means of pain relief.

Section one contains chapters reviewing the neurophysiology of pain. Basic neuropharmacology is dealt with in only five pages, though drug control of pain receives a more generous allowance. The bulk of the book is devoted to chapters on different physiotherapeutic modalities for pain. It is this reviewer’s impression that often when physicians and surgeons refer patients for physiotherapy, the patient is removed to the physiotherapy department and the clinician has little or no idea of what is actually being done to the patient. This book provides a good opportunity to find out. The different therapies include neuromuscular facilitation of movements (various types of physical manipulations), acupuncture, transcutaneous electrical stimulation, an informative section on short-wave diathermy, microwave, ultrasound and interferential therapy. Other sections include heat and cold therapy, a number of manipulative procedures, connective tissue massage and hydrotherapy.

The final section of the book concerns three special areas of intervention, including management of post-operative pain, cancer and terminal pain, and pain relief in obstetrics and gynaecology. The last of these is excellent. The other two, both written by physiotherapists, contain fairly long sections on pharmacological treatment which is inappropriate in a book with an earlier chapter written by an anaesthetist with special expertise in pain relief.

Clinicians will find this an interesting book to dip into but the book is clearly intended primarily for physiotherapists.

JW SCADDING


The strength of this impressive text on the surgery of cerebrovascular disease lies in the undoubted, perhaps unrivalled, clinical experience of its individual contributors. There are almost ninety authors, all but two from North America, representing vascular surgeons, neurosurgeons, neurologists, radiologists, and pathologists. The Editor’s stated intention is to provide a body of knowledge from which the surgeon engaged in stroke prevention can draw to better identify patients who will benefit from surgical therapy as well as to make surgical management safer for the patient. To this end half of the contents relate to the epidemiology, pathology, and investigation of cerebrovascular disease. In this section there are some omissions which might be corrected in future editions. There is surprisingly little discussion regarding cerebrovascular autoregulation and reactivity in the management and investigation of patients with advanced cerebrovascular disease; both might be included in a chapter on basic cerebrovascular physiology. Despite the proper emphasis on non-invasive techniques of cerebrovascular investigation, there is no mention of the potential role for transcranial Doppler studies. It is disappointing to see no consideration given to the problems of conducting clinical trials in patients with cerebrovascular disease. These are surely the proper responsibility of all cerebrovascular surgeons who wish to settle so many of the controversies which still surround their practice.

Inevitably the surgical sections of the book concentrate on carotid artery disease. There are few surprises, even in the chapters devoting much of the book to general anaesthesia and occasionally face the disappointment of severe cardiovascular complications in the elderly high risk patient will be interested, if not swayed, by Connolly’s description of alternatives to general anaesthesia for carotid endarterectomy. Patients with advanced proximal disease present some of the more fascinating and challenging surgical problems and two smaller sections of the book are devoted to the surgical management of cerebral and brachio-cephalic disease. Three chapters deal with extracranial/intracranial bypass surgery. In the present climate of opinion, these are only likely to be of concern to those centres interested in identifying patients with true haemodynamic insufficiency or tackling difficult intracranial pathology requiring collateral vascularization.

This is a well produced book which the surgeon interested in cerebrovascular disease will enjoy consulting when faced with the unusual or searching for an elusive reference. Future editions are likely to build on its sound foundation.

R J NELSON