

cause them and the potential to prevent them. In the case of micro-embolisation, apart from arterial line filters, the use of prostacyclin as an anti-platelet agent is discussed and the disappointing results of trials are reviewed. The authors consider techniques for the early identification of macroembolism and possible methods of cerebral protection with barbiturates and calcium blocking agents. This is followed by a review of methods of assessing patients, during and after cardiopulmonary bypass including EEG monitoring, evoked potentials, CT scanning, cerebral blood flow and the measurement of CSF markers. The authors stress that all tests must be compared with the "gold standard" of clinical examination and functional ability. They also make the plea for more necropsy examinations of patients dying during cardiopulmonary bypass or as a result of complications. Then follows a critical assessment of those techniques available to reduce the risk of cerebral injury during cardio-pulmonary bypass and the editor provides a final chapter on hypothermia as a method of improving or avoiding cardiopulmonary bypass.

The book is a good summary and review of a complex and important field, the editor has ensured that there is little overlap between the chapters and, although the fact that all begin with an almost identical sentence is irritating, the content is good and each is well referenced. I have two minor criticisms of this otherwise excellent book; the first is that a final precis of the present state of the art would have been useful and the second is that the editor has only invited one non-north American contributor to produce a chapter, seeming to ignore the seminal work in this field which has been performed on this side of the Atlantic.

DAVID BATES

**Cerebrovascular Diseases. Fifteenth Research (Princeton) Conference.** Edited by William J Powers & Marcus E Raichle. (Pp 396; \$118.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1987.

For over 30 years the now biennial "Princeton" Conference on Cerebrovascular Diseases has provided a "state of the art" review of laboratory and clinical research of that subject. The most recent conference was held in 1986 in St Louis and this volume contains the papers and discussions from the

meeting which was presented in four sections. The first papers are related to the phenomenon of brain ischaemia and the nature of the biochemical lesion. They review the evidence for the role of excitatory amino acids, cerebral lactic acidosis and impairment of protein synthesis in the development of cerebral infarction. The papers are necessarily derived from laboratory studies both in vivo and in vitro, but the clinical relevance of the possible role of aspartate receptor antagonists and lactic dehydrogenase inhibitors is raised in discussion. It is surprising that although there is much comment about alterations in intracellular calcium there is no discussion of the use of calcium overload blocking agents.

The second section concerns the regulation of cerebral vasculature and reviews the relationship of cerebral blood flow and metabolism to those factors, both local and neurogenic, which influence vascular reactivity.

It is, predictably, in the third session on the efficacy of carotid endarterectomy that the passions of the clinicians become most apparent. Professor Plum ably chairs a session in which two neurologists, a vascular surgeon and a neurosurgeon present their views on the necessity or otherwise of a controlled, randomised study of the procedure. The lively discussion which ensues reveals the present dilemma surrounding the management of patients with symptomatic, and even asymptomatic, carotid bruits. An editor's note comments that the majority of those attending would take part in such a controlled trial.

The final section is the weakest and it attempts to review some aspects of the frontiers of research in the demonstration in vivo of reversible ischaemia, the identification of those factors which influence recovery of function and the methods of establishing reperfusion of ischaemic brain.

It is inevitable that, since two years have elapsed since the Conference, most of the results and opinions reported here have now appeared in research journals but the book is a useful composite of laboratory and clinical research in cerebrovascular disease.

DAVID BATES

**Pediatric Neurology and Neuroradiology. Cerebral and Cranial Diseases.** By C Diebler and O Dulac. (Pp 430; DM 298.00.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1987.

It is a pleasure to pick up a book which is so

clearly set out, well printed and excellently illustrated.

The authors, a French neuro-paediatrician and neuroradiologist state their aim is to bridge the gap between neuroradiology and paediatric neurology. Although it is not a text book of either subject in the formal sense it is in effect a text book of clinical neuroradiology.

The text is concise, in excellent English and up-to-date. It reviews the clinical features and often pathological mechanisms of a wide variety of diseases depicting the child's brain which can be imaged with CT scanning. The illustrations (mostly CT scans with some arteriography) are profuse, relevant and very clear.

A special feature of the book is a great deal of personal experience of both authors which is drawn upon and many individual cases are presented. Cerebral cranial malformations, neurocutaneous syndromes, vascular disorders and tumours are particularly well covered. There are interesting reviews of metabolic disease. The book is well indexed and well referenced and so can act as a source of further information.

For the non radiologist perhaps a chapter on the normal scan would have been a help and also some arrows to highlight features on some of the more difficult scans.

This is a well produced text, essential for any medical library and of particular practical value to anyone, physician or surgeon who is involved in the diagnosis and management of children with neurological disease.

SH GREEN

## Notice

### The International Society for Paediatric Neurosurgery

The 17th Annual Meeting will be held 15-18 October, 1989 in Bombay, India. Information may be obtained from Dr S N Bhagwati, Medical Research Centre, Bombay Hospital, 19 Marine Lines, Bombay 400020, India.