Book reviews

pearances, the cranio-cervical junction, inflammatory disease, tumours, trauma, paediatrics and a final miscellaneous section. Each section is well laid out in two columns with many sub-headings making it clear and readable. In spite of the rather unusual division and juxtaposition of clinical, anatomical and pathological chapter headings, the entire text is informative and cohesive with no serious omissions.

Nearly all books on MR start with a chapter on physics. This one is no exception but instead of a detailed account of every facet, unintelligible to most clinicians, the authors have sought to explain the parameters which give MR its unique flexibility while keeping formulae to a minimum. They emphasise the practical consequences of sequence construction and along with lucid explanations showing numerous examples of the effects of changes on spinal imaging they explain resolution, signal-to-noise and artefacts.

This solid technical background leads on to the section on normal anatomy illustrated by excellent cross-correlative multiplanar coloured cryomicrotome cadaver sections, schematic diagrams and MR images. These are well labelled with arrows and letters but it is a pity that some of the explanations of abbreviations are not on the same page as the illustration.

Up to 80% of us will suffer back pain at some time in our lives so it is fitting that the section on degenerative disease is the longest at 45 pages. The clinical features are discussed in detail and correlation with pathology and imaging copiously illustrated.

Postoperative appearances are next described. Both the normal and abnormal sequelae are shown with a useful discussion of the "failed back syndrome" and "disc versus scar". Encouraging results are shown when Gadolinium-DTPA contrast is used. It does not address the MR problem of accessing satisfactory fusion: for instance should flexion-extension images be obtained?

The cranio-cervical junction has rightly merited a short section to itself as MR has revolutionised the investigation of this region. The main pathologies in the rest of the spine—inflammation, neoplasia and trauma—are considered in the following chapters. They are clearly laid out and competently discussed.

The embryological development of the spine and congenital lesions are included in the paediatric section while topics not so far described are placed in the miscellaneous section. This includes several major conditions which might have merited more detailed discussion: intra- and extramedullary

cysts, AVMs and other vascular anomalies, demyelination and radiation myelitis.

A radiology book stands or falls on the quality and relevance of its illustrations and their integration into the text. In general they are excellent showing high contrast resolution up-to-date sequences. A few however, have reproduced poorly eg Fig. 3-38, 6-1, 6-7, 6-11 and 7-14. Legends to the figures are informative and support the text but it is unfortunate that the pulse sequence is not always given and T1- or T2-weighted is used instead to describe the image—rather ambiguous terms.

The references placed at the end of each section are full and surprisingly up to date (late 1988) for a book published early in 1989. The index is accurate and comprehensive.

With high quality glossy paper, a good binding, hard covers and being liberally illustrated with half tone and coloured images it is remarkably good value for money. It relates one view of spinal imaging and in many ways looks to the future. At present there are insufficient MR imagers in UK or even Europe to cope with the workload envisaged in this book. It does however give us a glimpse of the potential to rationally replace most of our current invasive investigations when imaging the spine.

The authors have succeeded in producing an excellent authoritative and comprehensive text that succeeds as a manual for the MR unit, as a reference when preparing teaching material and a handbook for anyone, doctor or scientist, who wishes to read an integrated account of MR spinal imaging. I can thoroughly recommend it.

DM HADLEY

Advances in Surgery for Cerebral Stroke. Edited by J SUZUKI. (Pp 752; DM330.00.) Berlin: Springer, 1988.

This book promises to be a landmark coming out as it does between the large clinical trials for revascularization in occlusive stroke. Being published after the extracranial/intracranial arterial by-pass study, it looks back with hindsight on that era, and looks forward to the European and North American carotid endarterectomy trials which are referred to in the book. The proceedings of an international symposium on cerebral stroke make up the contents of the book. The selection of topics for the symposium has ensured that the book has an international flavour of well chosen topics. Seldom is it possible to obtain such up to date information in one volume: most of it is

clinically very relevant and there is a balanced mixture of basic science. The book is divided into three sections:

Part one consists of five special lectures by Suzuki, Sano, Yasargil, Barnett and Drake;

Part two consists of fourteen round table sections covering posterior circulation aneurysms, moyamoya, the ECIC by-pass study, non-surgical treatment of arteriovenous malformations, cerebral infarction, anterior circulation aneurysms, timing and grading in subarachnoid haemorrhage, occlusive stroke, cerebral vasospasm, intervertebral haemorrhage, deep or large arteriovenous malformations, giant aneurysms, revascularization in acute infarction and dural arteriovenous malformation. Each round table is addressed by different authors, and the discussion is excellent.

Finally, part three consists of twenty-eight selected papers ranging from the use of MRI spectroscopy to SPECT scanning in occlusive stroke.

The book is essential reading for all clinicians who deal with cerebrovascular disease, and will only be superseded when the carotid endarterectomy trials are published in several years time, because, on the subject of endarterectomy, Peerless summarizes on page 382 "the real answer is of course that we do not know".

AD MENDELOW

Neural mechanisms in disorders of Movement. Edited by AR CROSSMAN and MA SAMBROOK (Pp 455; £30/US\$58/FF355.) John Libbey & Co Ltd, 1989.

This book is based on a series of papers given at a meeting in Manchester in 1988. Fifty three papers are published divided into three sections devoted to anatomy and physiology, animal models and clinical aspects respectively. Although the aim is "to provide a cohesive account of the neural mechanisms which mediate abnormal movements" it fails to achieve this aim because few papers provide any overview or connecting link. Instead most authors have recorded their recent work that is related (however remotely) to movement disorders. However, there are papers of great interest to the basic scientist in the first two sections; and papers in all three sections that have interest to the clinician.

In the section on anatomy and physiology the paper on dopaminergic and cholinergic systems in the striatum and on striatal pathology in movement disorders stand out as of interest to the clinician. The MPTP animal