cated Attitude” is included and this looks at the why’s and wherefore’s of performing a specific investigation in a particular patient. This is a difficult area and the section in my view adopts a sensible attitude. However, I think it would have been appropriate to have a section on the investigation of old people. This is a difficult and controversial area and the investigation of subarachnoid haemorrhage, dementia and epilepsy in old people needs careful thought and surely is worthy of mention.

The final sections are concerned with investigations and these sections have been expanded to include comment regarding magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET). The latter is certainly an interesting technique but most unlikely ever to provide useful clinical information for those of us in the average neurological practice. The section on neurophysiological techniques covers the standard tests available for routine use and includes a section on evoked potentials. I was surprised, however, to see no comment regarding single fibre EMG as this is now a well established technique. The appendices contain some helpful summaries of components of the neurological examination though there is an error in appendix D “The Glasgow Coma Scale”.

Despite what I regard as the minor quibbles above this is an excellent book and one to be warmly recommended to those in neurological training. Like Bryan Matthews’ book “Practical Neurology”, it is a volume that most neurologists will wish to own and most of us, I suspect, would have been proud to write.

NEF CARTIDGE

Surgery of the peripheral nerves. (Piccin Surgical Techniques Series—Vol. XIV). By G MORELLO and F PLUCHINO. (Pp 392; £136.00.) Published by Piccin Nuova Libreria (Italy) U.K. Distrib: Gazelle Book Services (Lancaster) 1989.

The bold type and full page colour drawings make this an immediately attractive book. It is Volume XIV of the Piccin Surgical Technique series originating from Italy. The text has been translated into English producing occasionally odd phraseology, and such variations as the use of “neurinoma” for neurilemoma. The basic message is clear and in association with most lucid colour illustrations of the detailed structure of peripheral nerves the text clarifies the need to use accurate micro-suture of the perineurium of individual fascicles for nerve repair rather than crude apposition of the epineurium.

The account of traumatic peripheral nerve lesions and regeneration follows the classical work of Sunderland and Seddon. There is a small section on peripheral nerve tumours but the majority of the volume is devoted to the details of micro-nerve suture and then a series of beautifully illustrated exposures of individual peripheral nerves provides a valuable reference book for the surgeon heavily involved in this type of work. It is more questionable as to whether or not the particular highly technical specialisation is part of neurosurgery or orthopaedic surgery. There is certainly a valuable place for it in development by someone in any area concerned with trauma patients. For such surgery this book is a welcome and admirable volume.

GORDON BROCKLEHURST


The impetus for this book and sharing the same title was an international symposium held at an unmentioned date in Wurzburg, West Germany. The volume is the ultimate in brain mapping. The author of each of the 59 chapters is the relevant world authority on the subject. Therefore, it is definitely an ego trip when they refer mainly to their own work in the reference list following their chapter: it is sheer necessity. Who dare to quote but the unique expert in the field?

It is the dernier cri in brain cartography. However, one cannot easily avoid the feeling that the great wealth of data was obtained, rather was “caught” and described almost status nascendi; and here lies the strength as well as the weakness of the book. A spirit of immediacy, enthusiasm, marvel and delight emanates from the pages, rooted no doubt in the vast unexplored fields and the potential of wonderful avenues waiting to be discovered.

This spirit is comparable to that of the pioneers who had set out to build the newly discovered continent; or, closer to home, the New-bornes of the spirit of Adrian, Grey Walter and the other pioneers of the EEG half a century ago.

Papers written by such personalities as Lehmann, Petsche, Duffy and Desmedt are truly statesmanlike, exposing theoretical guidelines, interpretations, warnings and pitfalls, past and future. Bordering on philosophy these articles are gathered under the collective title “State of the Art” conveying masterfully exactly that. The methodologies