

aneurysms, with the emphasis on the therapeutic approaches to the problems. The work is based on the experience of the French neurosurgeons, backed up by a thorough review of the literature. The book is well-written, well-translated, but I felt that its main strength was the superb illustrations, particularly the photographs taken through the operating microscope, which are sharp and, although only in black and white, are usually accompanied by excellent drawings which illustrate the anatomy perfectly. A further strength of the book is the final 3 pages, under the heading General Conclusions, where the authors set out their philosophy in the management of the various clinical problems associated with giant aneurysms. Their approach is, of course, personalised and like all neurosurgical problems, open to debate, but for the general neurosurgeon who occasionally deals with giant aneurysms, these 3 pages act as a clear guide for decision making and by following the authors' recommendations, a good plan of management can be developed. I find it rare in a book of this type for such clear final recommendations to be made and I think this adds considerably to the value of the work.

The book is expensive for its size, but I feel should be available in all libraries where neurosurgeons practise. Whether the individual will want to buy it will depend on his personal circumstances. I feel that the neurosurgeon with a particular interest in giant aneurysms, may find detail lacking in the text, but would greatly appreciate the extensive bibliography. The resident in neurosurgery would probably find the book too expensive, but should read the book as a great deal will be learnt from it about the management of these difficult clinical problems.

PETER RICHARDS

The Molecular Biology of Neurological Disease. Edited by R N Rosenberg, A E Harding. (Pp 261; £35.00.) Guildford: Butterworth Scientific 1988.

The remarkable development of molecular biology over the last decade has already had a profound effect on the pathogenesis, investigation and in some cases management of clinical neurological disease. Hitherto the main impact of the so-called "new genetics" has been in the field of inherited neurological disease but over the last few years rapid progress has also been made in elucidating

the molecular pathogenesis of a range of diseases including Alzheimer's disease, viral diseases and neurological diseases associated with mitochondrial dysfunction. For these reasons this is a particularly timely volume. It is the ninth title in the series of Butterworth's *International Medical Reviews on Neurology* and carries on the exceptionally high standard set by all of the previous volumes. Because of both the complexity of the subject and the range of topics that can be subsumed under this title, the editors must have been faced with a difficult task in the selection of the chapters. However, I consider that they have carried out this task in a masterly fashion and in compiling this succinct yet comprehensive volume the editors have performed a considerable service to the neurological community.

This is the most scientifically orientated of all of the volumes in the Butterworth's series to date, and I personally applaud this approach. Understanding molecular biology is not easy and the "jobbing neurologist" without the relevant scientific background will have to exert a considerable degree of concentration and force of will to get to grips with all the concepts which are presented. However, the rewards of such careful reading will be considerable because almost without exception the chapters in this book are authoritative, broad in scope, highly informative and stimulating. A large number of topics are covered and there are no significant omissions. As has been the tradition in this series there is a very good introductory chapter by the editors in which basic molecular biological principles are introduced. In subsequent chapters gene expression in both brain and skeletal muscle are well covered and there is a fine chapter on the regulation of nervous system development by specific proteins. There is a detailed and concise review of chemical neurotransmission, and two chapters on messenger RNA in nervous tissue, one concentrating on in situ hybridisation methods of visualising brain mRNA and the other giving a more general discussion of mRNA levels in a variety of neurological diseases. There are two chapters devoted to viral diseases of the nervous system. One of these is a concise review of host and viral genetic factors influencing viral neurotropism and the other is concerned with detection of viral genes in a variety of neurological diseases. The latter is certainly adequate although a little uncritical in places. There is also a chapter describing elegant experiments of neurological disease induced in transgenic mice. Naturally there are several chapters devoted to the molecular genetics of inherited neurological disease.

The remarkably successful application of molecular biological techniques to muscular dystrophy are described in an excellent chapter which highlights the impact that these techniques have had in terms of carrier detection and prenatal diagnosis. There are also authoritative chapters on the molecular genetics of Huntington's disease, neurological diseases associated with mitochondrial gene dysfunction and the molecular basis of retinoblastoma and Joseph disease. There is a stimulating chapter on the molecular basis of neuro-oncogenesis and also a very useful review of immunogenetics and the association of genetic polymorphism and susceptibility to a variety of neurological diseases. Finally, the authors summarise the neurological "gene map" for 1987.

In summary, this is an extremely useful book and in my opinion should be read by all clinical neurologists. It should also be of considerable interest to a variety of other specialists including those in the fields of pure molecular biology, psychiatry, neuroscience, genetics and developmental biologists. The book is reasonably priced, well produced and also has good illustrations. It deserves much success and should be on the shelves of all neurological and general medical libraries.

PGE KENNEDY

Neuropsychological Rehabilitation. Edited by Anne-Lise Christensen, Barbara Uzzell. (Pp 133; £25.95.) Dordrecht: Martinus Nijhoff, 1988.

The Proceedings of a two day conference on the rehabilitation of brain damaged people, held at Copenhagen in 1987 are recorded in this book. The stated aims of the conference were "to present and discuss state of the art knowledge within neurophysiology, neurology, neuropharmacology and neuropsychology as they apply to the rehabilitation of brain damaged adults." The aims of the book were to share the experience gained from the conference with a larger audience, and also to pay tribute to the work of Anne-Lise Christensen and her colleagues at the Centre for Rehabilitation of Brain Damaged in Copenhagen.

The book consists of eight chapters and a postscript. The first and clearly-written chapter deals with the topic of neural plasticity and the "contextual" factors that may affect recovery of function following traumatic brain injury (TBI). Chapter two