

Pediatric Cerebrovascular Disorder. By E S Roach, A R Riela. (Pp 257; \$45-00.) New York: Futura, 1988.

This book from two paediatric neurologists from North Carolina is on an important subject on which no comprehensive text at present exists.

The clinical chapters are grouped on a pathological basis and the review of the literature is comprehensive. It is this good referencing which is the main value of the book.

The reviews of each pathological entity are only gently critical and some rather more rigorous examination of the evidence would have been helpful. However, some of the reviews of particular conditions are very good; for example Sturge-Weber syndrome is well discussed. It is not very comprehensive on the congenital angiomatous syndromes. There is a particular problem for anybody who wanted to see a clear discussion of how to manage a child with an unexplained stroke, since information about this clinical syndrome can be found in several chapters.

Quite a bit of the general paediatric neurology that is included, for example that young children recover better from vascular damage than adults and the information about survival and for language functions, is in traditional terms without critical discussion. The book therefore has its uses as a source of information and can be recommended for this purpose. It does not answer the dilemmas about, for example, the use of angiography in acute stroke.

B G R NEVILLE

Rehabilitation of the Severely Brain Injured Adult. Edited by Ian Fussey, Gordon Muir Giles. (Pp 223; £12.95.) London Croom Helm, 1988.

This book is one of a series under the general title of *Therapy in Practice* aimed at occupational therapists, physiotherapists and speech therapists but hopefully of interest to other members of the rehabilitation team such as nurses, psychologists, doctors, social workers and teachers. Reflecting this intention the 14 contributors represent all these disciplines. Its subject of post-acute brain injury rehabilitation is well worthy of attention and there is a need for a volume such as this. It emanates from the Kemsley Unit of St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton which is virtually unique in the United Kingdom in its experience of the

management of severely brain injured adults with behavioural disorders. For this reason alone it makes for useful and interesting reading. It begins with a well referenced account of current theories of recovery after brain injury and the resulting rationale behind the treatment approach advocated. Subsequent chapters describe and discuss in variable depth the role and perspective of the various disciplines involved in treating these patients. Throughout the need for an inter-professional approach with role-blurring is emphasised without unnecessary repetition. The controversial subjects of behavioural techniques and conductive education are tackled and there is a useful exposition of the talents that a teacher may bring to the team.

The penultimate chapter addresses the crucial question of the applicability of the behavioural model in settings other than the specialist unit and ends with a rather cursory account of why behavioural management may fail. Finally a brief discourse on the future of brain injury is given which clearly states the need for a network of services within which a behavioural management unit is a component. Few professionals with practical experience of this neglected patient group would disagree with this message. The book is attractively produced and represents fair value for money. It should be of use to those interested in its subject the aftercare of severely disabled patients rather than the rehabilitation of the head injured population as a whole.

BRIAN PENTLAND

Drug-Induced Headache. Edited by H C Diener, M Wilkinson. (Pp 173; \$65.00.) New York: Springer, 1988.

Headache is a side-effect of many drugs, especially vasodilators, and possibly becoming more common with the greater use of more calcium blockers. This book is not about this, but is concerned solely with the chronic headache syndrome(s) that develop with regular use of medication, particularly ergotamine and analgesics. The condition, and it may be that there is only one, common to all these medications, appears preferentially or exclusively to affect headache sufferers. Whilst the initial prescription (for headache) may have been appropriate, the term "drug-induced headache" implies that there is now medication abuse. Since the drugs involved have no molecular or pharmacological common denominator, drug-induced headache may be largely

behavioural. In headache clinics, it is seen as a serious clinical problem requiring knowledgeable management. Elsewhere it is poorly recognised.

This acceptably short multi-author book deals with the issues in 19 papers under four headings: clinical aspects; psychological, behavioural and social aspects; pharmacological aspects; and treatment. After a brief Introduction, chapter one discusses the transformation of the initial episodic primary headache (commonly but not necessarily migraine) into the chronic disorder. More than one definition of the condition appears between the Introduction and Section 1, and some surprising remarks soon feature. "Examination of the patient may give hints of the diagnosis. Most of the women look much older than they are, have gray (sic) skin and sparse dry hair." Chapter 2 ends with an exhortation to ban all analgesic combinations and prohibit advertising of headache and antimigraine drugs! The implications of these proposals are not considered, but in any case they appear in the wrong place in the book.

And that is really the problem. The expectation of a structured review of the subject of drug-induced headache collapses with the repeated presentation of personal results in short papers. Overlap and repetition vie with seeming uncertainty in some chapters as to what is to be covered. It is quickly apparent that the section headings are artificial. Treatment, for example, is already discussed several times before the start of the last section, which "officially" deals with this aspect. And the last two papers return to consider possible mechanisms and clinical characteristics.

Nonetheless, the book is not without gems. Isler's mistitled but thought-provoking thesis on the origin of the condition comes, as always, entrancingly gift-wrapped. Read him on the "violent pharmacopeia" (p. 88). By the end of the book no reader will have any doubt that drug-induced headache exists as a chronic ailment, and that both ergot and simple analgesics used regularly give rise to it in headache sufferers. These messages are repeated so often. They are messages that need to be disseminated but, sadly, those reading the book will probably be the already converted.

TJ STEINER