

tion to technological detail. This makes for good reference material but for boring reading. The index is appalling and *inter alia*, fails to list dyskinesia, dystonia, on-off effects, or receptors. Some can be found as sub-headings if you search for them. It is sad to find such blemishes in an otherwise useful collation, but I think UK readers at least, will prefer Gerald Stern's recent text, which though not confined to therapy, embraces all its practical issues, and is a more satisfactory work of reference.

JMS PEARCE

Some Pitfalls and Problems in Neurosurgery. Series: **Progress in Neurological Surgery, Vol. 13.** Editor: J C DE VILLIERS. (Pp 208; Price: £82.50.) Basel, Karger, 1990.

This book is the thirteenth in the series "Progress in Neurological Surgery." Unlucky for some, perhaps, but the thirteenth edition which covers transphenoidal operations, frontal and temporal basal tumours, CSF shunts, spinal intramedullary lesions, lumbar discs, and brain death, should not prove a disappointment to the editor, Dr de Villiers. "Pitfalls" are interpreted as a complication which may result from incorrect interpretation of clinical signs and investigations, or occur as a result of the operative procedure.

The first chapter is an excellent review of the problems encountered with the radiology of pituitary tumours and transphenoidal surgery. The text accurately describes the nasal complications following operation (usually omitted from other descriptions) and advises on the ways of minimising these. Surprisingly, the author fails to mention the need for steroid cover during an anaesthetic or operative procedure in these patients with potential pituitary insufficiency. There follows a rather disappointing chapter on frontal and basal tumours. The radiological examples are all based on angiography, air encephalography and early generation CT scanning. Much information with useful advice is buried within a very detailed text which makes heavy reading. Again there is no emphasis on the need for steroid cover during operation on suprasellar tumours. Shunt complications bedevil us all. A chapter on the ways of minimising these provides practical advice. Perhaps the text should have included some mention of the advantages and disadvantages of the newer variable pressure valves.

The next chapter provides helpful information on spinal intramedullary tumours, incorporating a detailed description of surgical technique. A subsequent chapter on lumbar disc prolapse is full of gems often omitted from more standard texts. Interesting text, however, inevitably contains controversy. I was surprised by an introductory sentence stating that "confirmatory tests" (i.e. confirming the clinical findings) "will be required by the majority". Surely in this day and age, all patients should undergo at least a CT scan if not myelography? Classic root signs do not necessarily result from disc protrusion at the expected level. The "out-patient" operative procedure for disc removal will also raise some eyebrows.

The final chapter on the diagnosis of cerebral death by the editor is a model of

clarity—that is all except the title. As the author himself points out, the "cerebrum" may be destroyed while the brain stem remains intact and the term "brain death" or "brain stem death" seems more appropriate.

The best way to practise surgery is to anticipate problems before they arise. In this way, complications are prevented and their effects if they occur are minimised. This book approaches the subject in a pragmatic manner. I am sure neurosurgeons at all levels, and in particular trainees, will find it valuable. It should sell well despite seeming relatively expensive for its size. Perhaps another edition along the same lines covering vascular topics should be considered in the future.

KW LINDSAY

Pain Syndromes in Neurology. Edited by HOWARD L FIELDS. (Pp 286; Price: £39.50.) Guildford, Butterworth Scientific Ltd. ISBN 0-407-011242-2. 1989.

Much of the most severe chronic intractable pain seen in pain clinics is neuropathic rather than nociceptive pain and whereas mechanisms of pain with an intact nervous system have been extensively investigated, mechanisms of neuropathic pain are poorly understood, and have received much less attention. This book is particularly concerned with these mechanisms of neuropathic pain and with treatment, but also considers peripheral nociceptive mechanisms and cancer pain, much of which has a nociceptive basis. The editor, Fields, opens with a succinct overview of pain transmission in the normal and damaged nervous system. This is an excellent introduction for the newcomer to this subject. Raja and colleagues next consider hyperalgesia and receptor sensitisation, covering both neurophysiological and chemical aspects.

Devor and Rappaport review experimental peripheral nerve injury. Perhaps the single most important fact to emerge from all the work on peripheral nerve injury is that damage to sensory axons frequently leads to ectopic impulse generation, and this is a likely basis for at least some of the pain experienced with such lesions. Burchiel considers the effects of deafferentation and this is linked with a discussion of the place of the dorsal root entry zone lesion operation described by Nasholt. A prominent effect of deafferentation is disinhibition of central neurones with the development of chronic abnormal repetitive neuronal discharges. This explains the common failure of ablative surgery. More damage may lead to more pain. A separate chapter by Watson is devoted to post herpetic neuralgia, dealing with clinical features and treatment rather than possible underlying mechanisms of pain.

The involvement of the sympathetic nervous system in peripheral nerve injury and in the obscure reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndromes is discussed in two chapters. Roberts and Kramis consider mechanisms and offer several interesting ideas but we are far from understanding these abnormal states. Payne provides a clinical description of reflex sympathetic dystrophy and considers treatment options. The frequent total failure of treatment is under-emphasized here. Asbury surveys pain in peripheral

neuropathies, drawing attention to the different mechanisms.

In a masterly review, Tasker considers the place of surgery for pain, both of nociceptive and neuropathic type. Stimulation procedures in spinal cord and brain are also discussed and there is brief mention of spinal and intraventricular opiate installation. The literature is comprehensively reviewed and the author admits, with honesty, the influence of personal bias. The unpredictability of results and variability of success of the same procedure in different surgical hands are the two main messages which emerge here. Portenoy considers cancer pain, in which the multiplicity of possible causes and mechanisms is stressed and thus the need for careful clinical assessment. The final chapter, again by Portenoy deals with the drug treatment of chronic pain.

Neurologists and neurosurgeons will find much of interest and relevance to their clinical practice here. The authors have been well chosen and present difficult subjects clearly, and the book has the advantage of being fairly short. It should find a place in all departmental libraries. The book is not complete in its coverage; those wanting to find full accounts of pain of myelopathic, brainstem, or thalamic origin will be disappointed. These topics are only briefly considered in the chapter by Tasker. Perhaps correctly, in a book of this length, the emphasis is on the more common painful neurological conditions and this is a small criticism. Overall, the book can be highly recommended.

JW SCADDING

Plasticity and Morphology of the Central Nervous System. A Challenge for Psychiatry of the Nineties. Edited by C L CAZZULLO, E SACCHETTI, G CONTE, G INVERNIZZI AND A VITA. (Pp 256; Price: Dfl 154.00; US\$70.00; UK £40.00.) Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, 1990. ISBN 0-7462-0094-3

The title of this book is misleading. It is not about neuroanatomy at all, which is what one might expect. It is a heterogeneous collection of papers presented at a conference on schizophrenia in Milan in 1987. The majority of the papers are not even about schizophrenia. There is one on phenylketonuria, one on eating disorders and nine (out of 24) on affective disorders. The topics covered include the genetics of depression among the Amish population in Pennsylvania, CT scan findings in schizophrenics, the description of a new battery of psychometric tests and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency in psychosis.

Altogether it is a curious mixture. Equally puzzling is why it has taken three years for the book to be published, because it is not printed but an amalgam of different type-written manuscripts, a process which I had always assumed speeded up publication. More serious, though, is the fact that some of these contributions would not have passed the refereeing process of even a moderately prestigious journal. With five editors available one might have expected a higher standard. In fact, bypassing the refereeing process is not always a bad thing. I have long believed that the reason why we rarely see papers of the quality of those written by German, French and British neurologists in the first

half of this century is that many submitted papers of this nature have the stuffing knocked out of them by revision at the behest of referees. Be that as it may, conference reports, which is what this book is, under a fancy title, often cry out for peer review or drastic editing. In this case the problem is compounded by the absence of any unifying theme.

In conclusion, therefore not a book I would recommend, certainly not to neurologists, and psychiatrists would find more meat in a random issue of a general psychiatric journal.

JC CUTTING

Neurological Complications of Renal Disease. By C F BOLTON AND G B YOUNG. (Pp 256; Price: £50.00.) Guildford: Butterworth Scientific Ltd, 1990. ISBN 0-409-95139-0

The two authors are clinical neurologists based in London, Ontario; Charles Bolton specialises in electromyography and Bryan Young in electroencephalography. Both work in collaboration with the haemodialysis service in their hospital and clearly have long and expert knowledge of their subject. The text is conveniently divided into firstly the scientific background including clinical assessment. Secondly, the largest section covers uraemic encephalopathy and neuropathy. Finally, the various neurological complications of dialysis, particularly dialysis dementia, are described. There is an interesting historical introduction which includes the information that Richard Bright in 1831 published a 2-volume work on the nervous system.

The sections on uraemic neuropathy and encephalopathy are extremely detailed running to 75 pages. I did not previously appreciate the complex aetiology of the carpal tunnel syndrome in uraemia and the authors discuss, amongst other causes, the role of the forearm fistula in haemodialysed patients and the role of amyloid. Efficient haemodialysis services are changing the neurological complications of renal disease and both uraemic polyneuropathy and encephalopathy are becoming increasingly rare. Although this is gratifying in one sense it unfortunately diminishes the usefulness of these chapters. The excellent section on dialysis dementia presents the same difficulty. Ten years ago the problem was much more common but now it is becoming rare due to greater understanding of the disorder and the effective removal of aluminium from the dialysate.

A problem with a text covering all neurological complications of renal disease is to decide on the degree of detail required for different topics and also on the choice of the proposed complications. For instance there is the rather dubious inclusion of ischaemic strokes, lacunes and Binswanger's disease on the grounds presumably that hypertension due to renal disease can be a precipitating cause. The detailed inclusion of central pontine myelinolysis and Wernicke's encephalopathy is more useful although both complications must be rare. Central nervous system infection following renal transplantation and immunosuppression is described and is clearly important.

There is no question that this is and will remain an excellent reference source for neurologists. The authors and publishers have produced a clear and readable text.

NIGEL HYMAN

Vascular Brain Stem Diseases: Workshop on Vascular Brain Stem Diseases, Gutersloh, September 1988. Edited by B HOFFERBERTH, G G BRUNE, G SITZER, H-D WEGER. (Pp 281; Price: sFr 80.00; DM 96.00; £33.40; US\$ 53.50.) Basel: Karger, 1990. ISBN 3-8055-5031-6

The Bertelsmann Foundation organised an International workshop on Vascular Brain Stem Diseases in Gutersloh in September of 1988. The papers from the meeting are published in this volume and provide a patchy review of the anatomy, epidemiology, investigation and therapy of brain stem diseases. The anatomy of the brain stem is described in the first paper in considerable detail, yet there is not a single diagram. Relevant diagrams are referenced from other publications which detracts significantly from the text. Similarly in the second paper the vascular supply of the brain stem is described but diagrams are little used, and the most comprehensive detail on vascular anatomy is provided in one of the papers in epidemiology, and therefore some considerable distance away from the relevant text.

The section on Epidemiology is more useful though there are considerable discrepancies between the frequency of the different symptoms and signs in papers by different authors. A useful review of the signs and symptoms of the eponymous vascular brain stem syndromes is provided. Almost half of the volume relates to the use of diagnostic tools for investigating patients with vascular disease of the brain stem, and ranges from the standard neuro-otological techniques—including electronystagmography, and brain stem evoked responses—through the use of ultrasound to the most controversial techniques of posturography and hemorheology. The problem is that techniques such as posturography, which are not well validated, are described by proponents of the technique whose evaluation of the results, though positive, is uncritical.

The final section of the book deals with potential therapy in posterior circulation ischaemia, and covers the use of physical exercise programmes, the role of medical therapy, explores the possibility of thrombolysis and assesses the possible role of surgery.

Overall the book provides several interesting insights into problems with the posterior circulation, but there is much that is already published in standard neurological texts, and relatively little which is new.

DAVID BATES

Neuro-Oncology: Primary Malignant Brain Tumours. Edited by D G T THOMAS. (Pp 303; Price: £50.) Sevenoaks, Edward Arnold. 1990. ISBN 0-7131-4586-2.

For the clinician who is not familiar with progress in laboratory fields, and for the laboratory worker who is not dealing with patients, it is equally difficult to grasp the direction of progress, if there is any, in primary malignant brain tumours. This relatively short and competitively priced book (£50.00) attempts to bring together the two sides of the house, which is so essential if patients are to benefit from, rather than suffer from, so called therapeutic advances. It may also help to bring home to the laboratory

worker that a shorter life may sometimes be more acceptable than a longer one, plagued by the complications of ill-designed and poorly controlled therapeutic trials.

Inevitably the subjects reflect the particular research interests of the contributors. Although the depth is certainly far greater than the "jobbing" neurologist or neurosurgeon will need, it does provide useful summaries in those fields for those who are contemplating expanding or changing their current research interests. The contributors are British (16), American (5) and Swedish (4). The first five chapters cover laboratory work including in vitro biology, oncogene expression, growth factors, and experimental tumours. These chapters clarify recent advances and have full bibliographies. The chapter on the classification of tumours, which is so essential in the management of patients and the assessment of results, places the WHO system in context. It forms a useful bridge between the laboratory and the more clinical sections of the book. The chapters on imaging and in vivo metabolism, including positron emission tomography are excellent. Those on radiotherapy, chemotherapy and biological response modifier therapies (immunological and non immunological) are valuable reference texts, especially for clinicians not familiar with those subjects.

My major criticism is that the chapters on clinical presentation may be sufficient for the non clinician or for the general physician, but they merit greater depth and more selection if the book is to achieve a more uniform standard. It is also a pity that although a chapter is allotted to stereotactic methods, mainly of biopsy, the every day problem of "conventional" or excisional surgery are not addressed at all. If attitudes to this have changed in the light of other "advances" (which may or may not be the case), the reasons for a change should have been clarified.

In summary this multi-disciplinary book can be firmly recommended. My reservation is that it fails to give clear guidance in fields, which although controversial, are nevertheless essential in making every day decisions. Perhaps it is that the expert in depth is ultimately more confused than those, who, from afar, can see only the important sign posts.

JOHN GARFIELD

Developmental Speech Disorders. Clinical Issues and Practical Implications. Edited by PAMELA GRUNWELL. (Pp 187. Illustrated; Price: £19.95.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1990. ISBN 0-443-03992-5

This update of Muriel Morley's book *The Development and Disorders of Speech in Children* (1957) discusses current clinical issues and clearly establishes its aim of "setting clinical practice firmly in a theoretical framework." The contributors are all clinicians in current practice, so the book chapters are both topical and thought-provoking. The newer fields of phonology and clinical linguistics are well represented and there is an emphasis on the impact of these newer fields to the overall understanding of children's problems in "learning to pronounce."

The book has a clear layout in three sections: the first, a theoretical section discussing issues in speech development and speech disorders; the second, a more practical section