Neuroepithelial Tumours of the Adult Brain: the use of the laser, in addition to which on the other. Of the former those on Mid-line angiography in the Neuro-radiological monograph and occasionally more.

Fusion Defect, The Diagnosis and Treatment, extensive chapters on general and authorship is usually single or double, will stated objectives of the work.

4,407 pages in the 1982 we now have the third with ensuing years the work has become well

order to produce a comprehensive reference in 15 parts, with somewhat arbitrarily into 15 parts, with somewhat unsatisfactory results: Electro-encelaphography appears as a limited contribution under phy appears as a limited contribution under review of the fitting also to point out the chapter on appreciate of the neuropharmacology of the the American and British approaches, large areas of rapid develop-

that significant re-writing would be required particularised as a thoughtful presentation of this book then it

after 1988 and

in the full list of topics, or a considered approach to one aspect of the disease. Melvin Yahr discusses the major contributors to the literature of Parkinson's disease and George Narabayashi the sur-

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neurosurgical practices in America are

research, of the basal

The third edition of Youmans' Neurological Surgery should be a welcome space occupying addition to the library shelf of all major neurosurgical practices.

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she said the neurosurgeon. My secretary did not have the heart to tell him that the meeting was to last three and a half days! It was, in fact, the 1st International Conference on Peroneal Atrophies and Related Disorders, held in Marseille in 1976. It was a conspicuous success. How did the Second International Congress on Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease on which this publication was based, and which was held at the Arden Conference Center of Columbia University at Harriman in New York State in 1987, measure up? The emphasis, indicated by the title, was on neurophysiology, molecular genetics and therapy.

The initial two sections on clinical, pathological and neurophysiological aspects emphasise the now well recognised hereditary nature of CMT disease. The third section is devoted to axonal and Schwann cell metabolism and immunology and, although it contains some contributions of interest, the direct relevance to CMT disease is not exten-

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The final section is on metabolic studies and treatment. The metabolic studies on

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ing to some extent circumstances of neurosurgical practices in America are discernible, and not surprisingly so, since the majority of the authors practice in the United States. The topics contributed by renowned authors such as Janetta, Samii, Sweet and Tindall, to take but a few examples, have wide welcome inclusions in the work. Similarly, a range of topics which extends to Thermo-

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written by the editor and finishes with a summary of research, current in 1989. The 659 pages between these two extremes are devoted to considerations of the basic anatomy, physiology and biochemistry of the disease, the neuropharmacology of the basal ganglia and the pathology of the disease itself. The aetiology of the disease and its epidemiology are discussed by Donald Calne, and George Selby from Sydney contributes an elegant chapter on the clinical features of the disorder. Melvin Yahr discusses the medical management and Narabayashi the surg-

Stern has collected the major contributors to the literature of Parkinson’s disease and there are no significant omissions in the list of authors. The features discussed are well referenced but the chapter on functional anatomy has only two references beyond 1986. However, Marsden’s chapter and the chapter on the biochemistry address more recent references. Stern’s consideration of current research includes four references after 1988 and if there is to be a further edition of this book then it is in this particular chapter that significant re-writing would be required for a better understanding of basal ganglia anatomy and physiology and appreciation of the neuropharmacology of the structures involved in this disease, since these represent the main areas of rapid develop-

Overall the book is well edited and compre-

hsive. Perhaps a small criticism would suggest that better consideration should be given to the question of Segelvine versus L dopa in the initial management of the disease and perhaps a little more on the iatrogenic causes of striatal rigidity. On the whole however I think the book is an excellent review of the topic and should be recommen-

ned.

JB FOSTER


Seventeen years ago Dr Youmans prefaced the first edition of his book Neurological Surgery with the assertion that the subject was large enough to require the contributions of multiple authors from all over the world in order to produce a comprehensive reference volume for use not only by neurosurgeons in practice, but also by trainees and by other specialists who might be involved in the treatment of neurological patients. In the ensuing years the work has become well established, and following the second edition in 1982 we now have the third with a total of 4,607 pages in the 5 volumes. It is a mammoth and fascinating exercise in compilation which should reflect the editorial policy and the stated objectives of the work.

Each contribution is presented as a chapter, and is written by one author or a group of authors, and occasionally more. A chapter may be a monograph of a hundred or more pages with many hundreds of references on the one hand, or a slightly contribution of a few pages on the other. Of the fourteen chapters which are dis-

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