that may occur. This section should be compulsory reading for every Paediatric Registrar.

The second half of the book adopts a more problem orientated approach. Here there are sections on common clinical problems as they present, and advice on the suitable approach to investigations. The topics here are very well chosen with excellent guidance on eliciting the necessary clinical features before investigations are undertaken. All sections are followed by a small number of highly selected references, which if consulted would serve to open the area to more detailed study.

This sort of publication can only be judged by how well it aids the Paediatrician or the trainee in his day to day management of neurosurgical cases. I introduced this book to my Junior staff in a lunchtime teaching session. The case histories provided a wealth of useful material and already the book has been consulted on more than one occasion in order to aid a decision as to whether a child should be referred on for more specialised investigation in a regional centre. Perhaps most impressively on two occasions recently I have had to retrieve my copy of the book from my Radiology library, and it had been "borrowed" from the inner recesses of my case. It is therefore already well used.

For its page size it is a thick book, and the small print is taken close to the edge of the page, so that the book has to be fully opened in order to be read with ease. The binding is already starting to fail under the strain. Would a hardback binding add much to the cost?

I am ordering another copy for our Department. Every Paediatric Unit needs one. 

RF MASSEY


To review a book on operative surgery is a most difficult task. One can find the most quibble about but in my opinion this volume is absolutely first-rate. It is a great improvement on the earlier editions, mainly due to the wider authorship from both sides of the Atlantic.

It is invidious to pick out any particular chapter as they are all comprehensible and of a high standard. The illustrations are excellent. The chapter that I personally found most interesting was that by Charles Drake who has distilled his considerable experience of aneurysms of the posterior circulation. What an excellent choice of authorship this was; his unique experience will be there for all of us to ponder over in years to come. Charles Drake recommends and defends the subtemporal approach to aneurysms at the bifurcation of the basilar artery but I personally have found petrional approach very satisfactory as long as one mobilises as fully as possible the various branches of the internal carotid artery. Of course the crucial importance of preserving the perforating vessels is stressed.

My only criticism is that there is no chapter on 3rd ventricular tumours. Colloid cysts are not indexed and the only surgical approach to a pineal tumour is a biopsy. I believe that there are occasions when an open surgical approach to the pineal is warranted (I now exclusively use the supra cerebellar approach). I consider the advantages to the transcassal approach to colloid cysts rather than the transfrontal approach. No doubt this omission will be made good in the next edition.

I have long advocated that the neurosurgical trainee should have a notebook into which he writes tips and ideas on neuro-surgical approaches that he learns during his training. Although expensive, I recommend that the trainee should save up, buy this book and unashamedly scribble on its pages and use it as his own notebook. It would be money well spent.

CBT ADAMS


This is a cookbook written as an aid to learners of EMG techniques. The book is profusely illustrated with photographs showing stimulation and recording sites for all commonly studied (and some less commonly studied) motor and sensory nerves, together with short descriptions of the techniques that may be used. There are sections on the facial nerve, the F wave, the H-reflex, repetitive stimulation, standard EMG and single fibre EMG, with illustrations of real EMG prints of normal values have been culled from the literature for both adults and children. A short and pertinent list of references concludes each chapter.

The descriptions of techniques may serve as an aid to those in training but are necessarily of limited length with no in-depth discussion. They are no substitute for practical instruction from a competent electromyographer. Planning a study appropriate to a subject's complaints, evaluating the completeness and technical adequacy of results and interpreting the study are barely covered. The book may have an appeal to learners but they will still need to consult further texts.

M HAYWARD

NOTICES

The Annual General Meeting of the British Neuropsychological Society will be held on Thursday 22 March 1990 at the National Hospital, Queen Square, London WC1. Further details from Dr Narinder Kapur, Wessex Neurological Centre, Southampton General Hospital. Telephone: (0703) 777 226 ext 3576.
