Microsurgery of the Temporo-Medial Region. By PROFESSOR R R RENELLA. (Pp 203; Price: DM158.00.) Wien: Springer-Verlag. 1989.

Professor Renella's superb monograph is a detailed and comprehensive account of the microsurgery on the medial structures of the temporal lobe. Successive sections cover the morphology of the region, then the clinical effects of lesions in these structures. The neuro-imaging of lesions of this region is described and also the neurophysiological investigations required in these patients and the results of functional imaging.

Various microsurgical approaches to this area are described. The author is unduly dismissive of *en bloc* lobectomy which is still used with good effect by many centres carrying out epilepsy surgery. The description of the various approaches to the medial temporal structures is very detailed and includes very necessary descriptions of the correct positioning of the patient and the reasons for this. However, these microsurgical descriptions assume an understanding of the surgery and anatomy of this region which only the experienced surgeon will have, and lack the kind of overview provided by the earlier publications from Zurich so valuable to the new operator in this region. The illustrations in the section on operative surgery are detailed and excellent.

The last section is a detailed analysis of 62 operations carried out by the author in Hannover with up to two years follow-up in 41 cases. This section is an excellent description of the results of microsurgical intervention in this region. The section on neuropathology is difficult to follow but seems to suggest that sclerosis of the medial temporal structures is related to other pathological processes at that area rather than being a finding in its own right.

Professor Renella has produced a thoughtful and detailed monograph about a modern approach to the surgery of temporal lobe epilepsy which deserves to find a place in every centre involved in its surgical treatment.

C E POLKEY

Advances in Cerebral Spect Imaging: An Atlas and Guideline for Practitioners. Edited by R L VAN HEERTUM AND R S TIKOFKY. (Pp 129; Price: £27.97.) Beckenham, Lea & Febiger (UK) Ltd. 1989.

This pocket sized paperback, 129 pages with more illustrations than text, has 2 Editors, 4 Consulting Editors, 16 Authors, and costs £27.97. The only FDA-approved agent available to the contributing authors at the time of publication was IMP (¹²³ labelled n-isopropyl iodamphetamine).

This is a superficially attractive book; good illustrations—some in colour; designed, the introduction tells us, to "introduce functional brain imaging to imaging clinicians and to non-imaging clinicians". Section I deals with Techniques, Section II with Diseased States, Section III with Quality Control of Manufacturers Protocols. In the space available the information has to be presented in concise form. No assumptions are made; anatomical diagrams, clinical information and technical descriptions are extremely simple and clear,

correlative studies with CT or MR explicit. The text is interspersed with boxed "teaching points" which unfortunately are often unhelpful, e.g. "cerebral SPECT studies may prove to be useful, etc", or, in a 77 year old man "the overall findings on the cerebral SPECT study are consistent with a pattern of severe depression". Such statements may provide useful discussion points but, in a non-specialist introductory paperback where the bibliography is an Appendix and unreferenced in the text, are inappropriate as teaching statements.

In summary, an easy read for those new to the subject; illustrations attractive; teaching points could be more constructive.

I ISHERWOOD

Function and Dysfunction in the Basal Ganglia Studies in Neuroscience Series Edited by: A J FRANKS, J W IRONSIDE, R H S MINDHAM, R J SMITH, E G S SPOKES, W WINLOW. (Pp 277; Price: £49.55). Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1990. ISBN 0-7190-2620-2.

This publication presents the main papers given at an international multidisciplinary conference held in July of 1987 at the University of Leeds. Its intent is to integrate and facilitate communications between the relevant neurosciences and clinical neurology concerning the basal ganglia in health and disease—a formidable challenge. Exacting editorial discipline has ensured that each contribution is comprehensible to the non-specialist and that the main topics—neurotransmitter systems, movement disorders, model systems, cognitive functions and psychiatric aspects—are covered in a balanced manner. Unfortunately, presumably because of pressure of space and economy, there is no reported discussion of the papers and the reader is denied that critical penetrating question, that spontaneous and illuminating reflection or that endearing confession of absolute ignorance from an expert that can make attendance at such meetings a memorable experience.

Noteworthy is P R McHugh's intriguing and provocative epilogue. Prudently deciding not to review in detail the contents of all the papers presented, for his text he examines the notion that the basal ganglia are the crossroads of neurology and psychiatry and the implications for contemporary and future research. He diplomatically points out that every research technique carries its own blind spots and mirages, often not comprehended except by the expert in the method, and the reviewer feels obliged to point out that even the expert may be thus afflicted, and that methodological problems probably account for "disagreements, failure to replicate and perhaps even some restriction of views". It certainly sounds as if the discussion of papers was refreshing and lively or, continuing in the diplomatic vein: a full and frank exchange of views took place. McHugh's main theme consists of a syndromic analysis of the triad of the three D's, Dyskinesia, Dementia and Depression, and the respective domains, motor sensory, cognitive and affective. He argues for the need to comprehend integrated mechanisms not only for each symptom complex but also for their tendency to appear together. To what extent current knowledge supports such functional compartmental

interactions, the concerned reader will have to adjudicate, but he must first purchase this book.

GERALD STERN

Familial Alzheimer's Disease. Molecular Genetics and Clinical Perspectives. (Neurological Disease and Therapy Series/2). Edited by: G D MINER, R W RICHTER, J P BLASS, J L VALENTINE AND L A WINTERS-MINER. (Pp 420; Illustrated Price: \$125.00 (US and Canada) \$150.00 (All others). New York, Marcel Dekker, Inc. 1989.

Until recently Familial Alzheimer's Disease was considered to be a rarity. However, in the last ten years careful epidemiological studies have suggested that a significant proportion of cases may be familial and the apparent paucity of familial cases relates to the late expression of the disease. This observation together with demonstration that the majority of patients with Down's Syndrome develop Alzheimer's disease in their fourth and fifth decade have provided a major impetus to research in this area.

Linkage studies have been undertaken in families with autosomal dominant inheritance of Alzheimer's disease which suggest that a Familial Alzheimer's disease gene can be located on chromosome 21. In addition the amyloid protein which forms the central core of senile plaques has been isolated and shown to be derived from a much larger precursor molecule which appears to be a membrane protein. This is also encoded on chromosome 21 but appears to be distinct from the Familial Alzheimer's disease gene. The recent surge of excitement has generated a number of meetings and although this book is published as part of a series on Neurological Disease and Therapy it is derived from a conference held in Tulsa in 1987.

This has resulted in both advantages and drawbacks. Since it is more than yet another conference proceedings there has been the opportunity to provide a coherent overview and there are some excellent general chapters. Of particular note are chapters five and six on the general problems of research into Familial Alzheimer's disease. The chapters on epidemiological studies and on legal perspectives are also excellent although the latter is not of course specific to familial dementia and essentially provides a US perspective.

There is also a good bibliography of references updated to January 1989. However, the editors do not appear to have used the opportunity to edit out inconsistencies and inappropriate material. Thus a chapter devoted to met-enkephalin measurements and another to Nitrendipine binding could easily have been dispensed with. Moreover every chapter reintroduces the problems, definitions and clinical description of Alzheimer's disease which could have been covered in a single introductory chapter. The recurring impression however is that this book is only a conference proceedings in disguise, the suspicion being fuelled by the many inconsistencies which have escaped the editors; thus on page 9 hints are given of linkage of Familial Alzheimer's disease to the amyloid gene only for later chapters to contradict this with clear evidence of a cross over. There are in addition a multitude of typographical errors one of which implies that DNA has now developed axons.