It is I believe unfortunate that the book has fallen between being a well edited overview of this very exciting field and merely another conference proceedings. It will prove useful to people working actively in this area but only for the more general chapters cited, as much of the material is already becoming out of date. Unless there is a copy in the library it cannot be recommended to the more general reader and it is difficult to see how a price of \$150 in the UK can possibly be justified.

M ROSSOR

Neurosciences in Israel. By N OREN AND O ABRAMSKY. (Pp 331; Price: not stated.) Jerusalem, Ministry of Science and Technology, 1989.

This is an interesting publication published by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Jerusalem, Israel which gives a wealth of information on the current status of neuroscience research in Israel. The authors, Dr Naomi Oren and Professor Oded Abramsky (the latter is Head of the Department of Neurology at the Hebrew University in Hadassah Medical Centre, Jerusalem and Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Health) have compiled a volume which gives comprehensive information on current research in this field in no less than 334 pages. The format is not one of a textbook or monograph, but is arranged in a series of sections.

The subject of neuroscience is covered in the widest possible context. We are first given a summary of scientists working in the neuroscience fields in the major University and Health Centres. Brief biographies of these various individuals are given together with their main research areas of interest. The subjects span virtually the whole range of neuroscience including electrophysiology, biophysics, neurochemistry, neuropharmacology, neuropsychology, neurobiology, neurogenetics, neuroepidemiology, neuroimmunology, neurovirology, neuropsychiatry, developmental neurobiology, neuroendocrinology, and behavioural neurology. One certainly gets a feel from this book for the breadth of neuroscience interest in the various Israeli Institutes. The specific scientific activities are then summarised succinctly together with the relevant researchers and I found this to be the most interesting part of the publication. I certainly gained a good deal of very useful information from these summaries and one also appreciated the high standard of academic endeavour. Finally, some general conclusions regarding, for example, the percentage of medical researchers in part-time and full-time research as well as suggestions for collaboration are given. The book ends with a long list of selected publications which I also found useful.

Overall this is an intriguing compilation of data and the authors are to be congratulated on amassing such a large amount of data covering so many fields and in presenting their data so succinctly and cogently. *Neurosciences in Israel* is a book which should be read by all those who are interested in neurosciences in general as well as those intending to collaborate with the various excellent groups in Israel. There is a great deal of interesting information in the book quite apart from the specific relevance to Israeli neuroscience research and I was certainly

very pleased to have this volume in my collection. I believe it would be a useful addition to any neurology or neuroscience library.

PETER GE KENNEDY

Neurophysiology. Applications in the Behavioural and Biomedical Sciences. Ellis Horwood Series in Neurosciences. By K A CLARKE. (Pp 150; Price: £29.95.) Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd/Halstead Press, 1990. ISBN 0-470-21554-2.

This book is written for graduate and undergraduate students in psychology, the behavioural and paramedical sciences. It is also intended to be suitable for psychiatric nurses, speech and psychotherapists. It presents a basic integrated appraisal of neurophysiology at an appropriate level. The information contained is presented in a series of short numbered paragraphs interspersed with many schematic diagrams. These are generally clear although some could have been improved in quality. The text is clearly written and easily comprehensible. There are occasional minor factual inaccuracies but nothing that could be seriously criticised.

Overall I thought that this was quite a nice basic text but I was left feeling rather dissatisfied at the end because of the necessarily superficial coverage of the subject. The student with an enquiring mind or with a specific question to answer would probably not find this book adequate for their needs and might prefer to put its rather high price towards a more comprehensive text.

TIMOTHY J WALLS

Advances and Technical Standards in Neurosurgery, Vol. 17. Edited by L SYMON, L CALLIAUW, F COHADON, B GUIDETTI, F LOEW, H NORNES, E PASZTOR, B PERTUISSET, J D PICKARD, M G YASARGIL. (Pp 255; DM 178.) Wien, Springer-Verlag, ISBN 3-211-82117-1, 1990.

Advances and Technical Standards in Neurosurgery is sponsored by the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies. Since the series was started in 1974 a new volume has appeared each year. It is edited by a committee of distinguished neurosurgeons drawn from Europe, and is intended as a contribution to the postgraduate training of younger neurosurgeons. It contains a small number of comprehensive reviews of key aspects of neurosurgery especially those where relatively rapid change is taking place. Each volume is divided into two parts: "Advances" and "Technical Standards". In theory the chapters in the first category are devoted to theoretical and scientific topics, whilst those in the second category involve detailed descriptions of established operative and technical procedures. In practice, this division between the two sections appears somewhat arbitrary and chapters in each section discuss both technical details and advances in the basic sciences.

This volume covers a varied and stimulating range of topics all relevant to the neurosurgeon who wishes to keep abreast of current developments. In the advances section are chapters on the immunobiology of

brain tumours, the transplantation of adrenal medullary tissue into the brain, and the computer assisted resection of cerebral tumours. The technical standards section reviews the different surgical approaches to colloid cysts of the third ventricle, stabilisation of the spine, and the role of surgery in the management of gliomas. With the exception of the chapters on adrenal medullary transplantation and colloid cysts none of these reviews makes especially easy reading but all are comprehensive, well edited and accompanied by extensive lists of references. The editors have largely succeeded in eradicating the problems, previously apparent, caused by bringing out a book written by a range of authors, some of whom have only a limited fluency in writing English prose. Volume 17, of this series, can be recommended with few reservations. As is only to be expected from a German publishing house, this book is beautifully printed, bound and illustrated. Unfortunately, the high price means that few individual neurosurgeons in the United Kingdom are likely to buy it but it should be acquired by both hospital and departmental libraries.

RS MAURICE-WILLIAMS

Great Men with Sick Brains and Other Essays. By B LJUNGGREN. (Pp 130; Price: \$35 prepaid payable to AANS). Order direct from The American Assoc. of Neurological Surgeons, 22 South Washington Street, Suite 100, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068, USA. 1990. ISBN 0-9624246-0-9.

This is a delightful, entertaining and scholarly series of short stories. They are both historical and biographical. Based on a personal and therefore to some extent idiosyncratic selection, Professor Ljunggren has painted the lifetimes and pioneering achievements of some great founders of neurological surgery. Many of these achievements are not well known, and therefore are of additional interest and importance. Of added spice, Ljunggren includes a good deal of the political and historical incidents which were interwoven with the professional lives of these early discoverers.

We learn of Wilhelm Wagner from Königshütte, the inventor of the osteoplastic flap; of Vilhelm Magnus from Oslo whose work paralleled that of Cushing. Long before Macewen and Godlee, Olof Acrel in 1768 removed in part a soldier's brain tumour which grew through the skull vault. Dr Blackall of Oxford described subarachnoid haemorrhage due to rupture of an aneurysm "the size of a horsebean" at the basilar tip in 1813. Edvard Bull described in detail (1870) a "meningeal apoplexy" which quite remarkably he recognised as being caused by a presumed aneurysm of the posterior communicating artery. This was 50 years before Symond's definitive study in 1923. In 1817 Carl Daniel von Haartman of Turku performed a trepanation of the skull for a depressed fracture. Christopher Withusen performed a common carotid ligation and temporarily abolished pulsating exophthalmos in 1831, only to find an encephalocele, 12 years later at autopsy.

Chapter 3 tells the fascinating life of Axel Key, and of his meeting with the inventor of dynamite: Alfred Nobel; and of the latter's

depressive phase in retreat in San Remo. The Nobel prize was to come later. We read of the great Bekhterev, the first neurologist in Russia, but also a general and a political radical. Ljunggren tells how Bekhterev recognised a variant of ankylosing spondylitis, how he fell out with Pavlov and how he was probably fatally poisoned by Stalin. There is a touching essay on Cushing, his famous operations on General Wood and of his lifelong friendship with the famous explorer Sven Hedin.

The sad illness of George Gershwin and the case of the sleepy Sea Lord end this engaging work, leaving the reader wanting more. Can you resist this elegant paperback?

J M S PEARCE

Neurophysiology. 2nd Edition Physiological Principles of Medicine Series. By R H S CARPENTER. (Pp 387; Price £17.95.) Sevenoaks: Edward Arnold, 1990. ISBN 0-340-50634-2.

This book is published as a companion volume to *Clinical Neurology* by C D Marsden and T J Fowler. The monograph consists of fourteen chapters with a list at the end of the book with references and further reading. The chapters contain a number of diagrams and a few tables. The material is well presented; however the close set type makes it somewhat difficult and tiring to read. The material presented contains the broad range of neurophysiological knowledge for the student, including special senses, postural mechanisms and motor control.

On the first page the author writes "This book is about trying to understand the brain". The author has generally succeeded in this introductory text which provides a good overview of neurophysiology. The book is a useful volume for the student. The references are somewhat old although the suggested reading lists are somewhat more modern.

M S SCHWARTZ

Chronic Epilepsy, Its Prognosis and Management. Edited by M R TRIMBLE. (Pp 260; Price £38.50.) Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 1989. ISBN 0-471-92464-4.

It is now well recognised that epilepsy is a heterogeneous disorder, not only in its phenomenology and aetiology but also in its prognosis. The majority of patients with seizure disorders will enter long-term remission shortly after the onset of their seizures but unfortunately 20% or 30% of patients have a chronic epilepsy often demanding life-long therapy and being associated with significant psychosocial handicap. Inevitably, such patients tend to gravitate towards neurology clinics where they make up a large part of neurological practice.

This is a multi-author book and whilst it is not stated clearly anywhere in the book that this is the case, one suspects that the authors have been invited to speak at a symposium and asked to bring the manuscript with them to contribute to this publication! This approach inevitably means that the content of many of the chapters in the book are available elsewhere often in rather fuller, better bal-

anced format. Some chapters will be of use to the general neurologist, including that on the EEG in chronic epilepsy, and that on the pathophysiology of chronic epilepsy.

The overall format of the book lacks balance and whilst the first thirteen chapters all have some relevance to the title of the book, the next five chapters contain two related to benzodiazepines (which may reflect the acknowledged financial support from the pharmaceutical company), one dealing with epilepsy in developing countries and one with general review of genetics and the potential application of the field of epilepsy.

It is doubtful that this book serves any significant purpose and neurologists seeking enlightenment on how to manage their patients with chronic epilepsy are likely to be somewhat disappointed. One suspects that the major aim of this publication is for it to be used as a promotional tool by a pharmaceutical company.

DAVID CHADWICK

Migraine: A Spectrum of Ideas. Edited by M SANDLER AND G COLLINS. (Pp 322; Price £35.00.) Oxford University Press, 1990. ISBN 0-19-261810-5.

This book contains the papers presented by the 25 participants at the Leeds Castle Migraine Workshop in 1988 and the accompanying discussion, apparently verbatim. To a veteran of Migraine Symposia it is disappointing and, to a migraineur, somewhat dismaying to find that the topics discussed have changed so little over the years. Merton Sandler, in his introduction, comments on the static nature of migraine research and the continuing lack of agreement. Thus, Lance and colleagues, in an excellent review of pathogenesis, strongly favour the neural origin of the symptoms of migraine, including the headache. This is balanced, however, by equally compelling claims by Humphrey for the role of 5HT receptors on extracerebral vessels. Despite decades of research there are remarkable gaps in our knowledge. Kathleen Merikangas points out that not a single study of the familial incidence of migraine has complied with accepted methodological standards. There is speculation on a central action of ergotamine but it transpires that nobody knows whether it penetrates the blood-brain barrier. Similar disagreements persist on the role of spreading cortical depression and of the changes in cerebral blood flow observed in classical but not in common migraine. That 5HT plays some part in the acute migraine attack is generally agreed, but not whether excess or deficiency is to blame.

In a book of this calibre a critical review of pharmacological treatment and of methods of assessment of results would have been welcome, rather than a statement of common practice. There is, throughout, an implicit or expressed belief that knowledge of the mode of action of drugs that appear to influence migraine will unravel its secrets. Ziegler casts doubt on this approach and, indeed, many have hoped that the reverse would be true and that the extensive research mostly ably reviewed and discussed here would lead to successful treatment.

This book presents a most interesting account of modern thought on migraine but provides few answers.

W B MATTHEWS

SHORT NOTICES

Psychoanalytic Terms and Concepts. Edited by B E MOORE AND B D FINE. (Pp 210; Price £25.00, \$38.00.) 1990. London: Yale University Press. ISBN 0-300-04577-8.

Journal of Neural Transmission Supplementum 29 Neurotransmitter Actions and Interactions. Edited by MBH Youdim and KF Tipton (Pp 304; Price: DM 240.) Wien, Springer, Verlag 1990. ISBN 3-211-82142-2

Back Pain—An International Review. Edited by JK Paterson and L Burn (Pp 430; Price: Dfl. 249.00, US\$ 128.00, UK£ 70.00.) 1990. Dordrecht, Kluwer Academic Publishers Group. ISBN 0-7923-8912-3

Mutism. Studies in Disorders of Communication. By Y LEBRUN. (Pp 124; £18.50). London, Whurr Publishers Ltd, 1990. ISBN 1-870332-55-5

Psychological Medicine—20 years of Publication Vol. 20 No. 1 February 1990 Edited by MICHAEL SHEPHERD. (Pp 242; Price: Vol. £29). Cambridge University Press 1990 ISSN 0033-29117.

This issue celebrates the Twentieth anniversary of this distinguished Journal under the editorship of Michael Shepherd. A good example of the bridge between neurology and psychological medicine, amongst other honours it has earned the review in the TLS. Readers of this Journal will not need further reminder of this scholarly publication.

L'encephale: revue de psychiatrie biologique et thérapeutique Nouvelle Serie Vol. XVI Fascicule 1 janvier-Fevrier 1990. (Entirely French). (Pp 60; Price: Annual Subscription FF660). Paris, ETIM, Annie Bloch.

NOTICES

Third International Symposium on Spina Bifida, to be held in Chicago, Illinois, 7-9 November 1990. Further information from Joy Santiago, Children's Memorial Hospital, 2300 Children's Plaza, Box 28, Chicago, Illinois 60614, United States.

Eighth International Symposium on Intracranial Pressure: ICP and Craniospinal Dynamics, to be held in Rotterdam, 16-20 June 1991. Further information from Erasmus Congress Organisation, POB 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands.