sections on anatomy and physiology; the evaluation of the dizzy patient—an analysis of history, examination and laboratory tests; and the diagnosis and treatment of common neuro-otological disorders. The last is disappointingly brief and in many ways uncrirical, and old fashioned. By contrast, the first two sections are detailed, precise and provide a most helpful current account of clinically relevant anatomy and investigation. MRI, evoked potential techniques, electro-ystagmography and the newer rotational investigations of semicircular canal function are considered and well illustrated.

I think this a useful book, which attempts to and makes a large measure succeeds in illuminating a difficult, tenebrous area of medicine. It is not cumbersome in size or content and I will certainly commend it to colleagues and junior staff in training.

JMS PEARCE


Under the guidance of its recent and current chairmen, the Research committee of the European Association of Neurological Surgeons, with the support of Fidia, has held a series of very successful meetings, directed at younger neurosurgeons and senior neurosurgeons with an active involvement in research, designed to link selected areas of clinical neurosurgery with basic neuroscience. This book is the proceedings of the third (1987) meeting.

The first half of the book covers anatomy, physiology, neurohumoral and clinical aspects of the hypothalamo-pituitary axis. Everitt and Hökfelt provide an authoritative description of the anatomy of the hypothalamus and its connections. They illustrate the wealth of information now available on projections, receptors, and neurotransmitter controls, which is made to interesting use in some of this material in the chapter by Vincent and Simonnets which follows. They emphasise the analogies between classical neurotransmission and secretion, and the coupling of behavioural and neuroendocrine homeostatic mechanisms, for example drinking and vasopressin secretion in response to osmotic stimulation. Some newer concepts are also developed, such as dendritic libration of neurotransmitters, and autoreceptors. The chapters by Page et al and Teasdale et al are excellent reviews of the medical and surgical aspects of hypothalamic and pituitary diseases and their treatment.

However, it is the group of chapters on the relationships of the CNS with systemic metabolism and fluid balance in subarachnoid haemorrhage and head injury which give this book its broader relevance for physicians as well as for surgeons. There are excellent and very lucid reviews of CNS control of fluid balance, and its disturbances in neurological patients, by Lighthart and Walker respectively. The chapters by Neil-Dwyer, Wijdicks, Nelson and Doczi and their respective collaborators are essential reading for vascular neurosurgeons and neurologists.

The use of double column A4 format provides for a large volume of information within 128 pages, and results in a deliberately concise and brief format. It is an excellent expression of the collective strengths of European clinical neuroscience, and the price makes it a good buy for a departmental library. Potential specialty fellowship candidates—and examiners—may well find it useful.

ANTHONY STRONG


The title of this book is misleading. Professor Shepherd has already published two volumes of his collected papers and this third volume contains a motley collection of papers, essays and commentaries that for one reason, or another were unsuitable for inclusion in either of the earlier collections. A hundred pages, no less, are occupied by case histories of morbid jealousy and the other eight brief articles are brief essays of less than five thousand words. All the same they make compelling bedside reading, for Michael Shepherd is always thoughtful and perceptive with a fluent pen, a well developed sense of history and a keen eye for the shortcomings of contemporary Anglo American orthodoxies. He is also impressively erudite and, like Macaulay, Aldous Huxley and his more recent Aubrey Lewis, delights in tracing his learning before his readers. The paper on morbid jealousy is, despite its impediments, a classical clinical description and there are important messages for contemporary psychiatry in several of the historical and literary pieces.

R E KENDALL


This volume admirably maintains the high standard of its numerous predecessors dating from 1920. In view of the large number of books on neuroimmunology which have appeared in recent years, it is always somewhat daunting to confront yet another volume on this subject. However, in this case the effort is certainly worthwhile since this book provides a large number of high quality reviews all of which display a uniformly consistent standard of discussion and presentation. The two broad messages which came over to me after reading this were firstly, that basic mechanisms in immunology are being recognised as being of importance in diseases of the nervous system in which in turn is reflected by the increasing sophistication of the concepts and techniques applied to neuroimmunological problems, and secondly, there is evidence for a close association between the immune systems and the CNS is increasing at a rapid rate. The book is divided into several sections which follow each other in a logical and coherent sequence. The opening chapters cover basic neuroimmunological mechanisms with excellent and thoughtful overviews on the genetic, molecular and general aspects of neuroimmunology. In the second section there are concise reviews on the immunopathological mechanisms of Multiple Sclerosis, noninflammatory immune mechanisms of CNS diseases and nervous system-immune system interactions. The third section covers monophasic autoimmune inflammatory diseases of the nervous system, chronic demyelinating diseases, tropical spastic paraparesis and the topical subject of HTLV-I myelopathy, intracranial inflammatory disease and immune aspects of inflammatory myopathies. I found the subsequent section on immunity and psychiatric disorders particularly interesting. There are many excellent case descriptions, new immunological investigations and potential treatments. The final section is a coherent overview of the field of neuroimmunology as well as an interesting summary of what is known at present and the possibilities for the future. Furthermore, it is an exciting and stimulating area of research.