

particularly pleased to see that the mathematical derivations were simple to follow and did not instill the usual feeling of ignorance and despair!

This book is to be recommended to those starting out in this field and should provide enough information and important references to guide the reader to the more complex reference text-books. The hardback price (£22.50) may be slightly off-putting for such a short text, but the provision of a paperback edition (£7.95) should make it very much more attractive.

Two or three relatively minor points became apparent on reviewing the book. I think it would have been more appropriate to have put the chapter on anatomy and methods for measuring CBF after the chapter on innervation and follow this with an explanation of the tomographic methods. The chapter on the merits of evaluating cerebrovascular reactivity is well presented, but should have been at the end. Some chapters included references to various papers, but it was not always clear as to which author was being cited. The section on tomographic methods did not include any reference to Xenon-CT and included less than half a page on Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography and as a consequence was too brief and did not really explain the principles and methodology of this now well used technique. Finally, a simple table comparing the relative costs of each of the methods of measuring CBF, together with examination times, radiation risk and their principal advantages and limitations would have been very useful.

A ROSS NAYLOR

**A History of Stroke: Its Recognition and Treatment.** By WM.S. FIELDS AND NA LEMAK. (Pp 211; Price £30.00). 1989, Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-505755-4.

This history of stroke opens with the Greeks and travels from them to 1915 in 28 pages a large part of which is taken up with illustrations and references. There follow a series of chapters on collateral circulation, arteriography, surgery, medical management, hypertension and epidemiology. Each of these consists largely of a list of the important papers with a brief account of what they contained. There is no attempt to explain how these various developments interacted, what triggered advances, why important discoveries were sometimes ignored for decades. Still less is there any account of the great controversies which marked progress in the management of cerebrovascular disease. As a bibliography this book is useful; as a history it fails.

JOHN MARSHALL

**Systemic Pathology, Vol. 4 3rd Edition, Nervous System, Muscle and Eyes.** Edited by WSTC SYMMERS AND RO WELLER. (Pp 776; Illustrated; Price: £97.50). Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone, 1990. ISBN 0-443-03312-9.

This large textbook is part of the well-respected series "Systemic Pathology", a collection

of monographs. In Volume 4 Professor Weller brings together contributions from some of the most senior neuropathologists in Britain to produce a textbook for histopathologists and an up-to-date source of information on all aspects of neuropathology for clinicians and basic scientists.

The book is divided into four parts dealing with central nervous system, peripheral nervous system, muscle and eyes and each begins with an account of normal anatomy and general reactions of the tissue to disease. This is particularly helpful to set the scene for readers with a background in general pathology. These readers will also benefit from chapter three, Pathophysiology of Raised Intracranial Pressure, which highlights some of the specific reactions of the central nervous system which result from its uniquely protected environment.

There is good practical advice on handling tissues of the nervous system in the first section, but neither here, nor in the section on muscle disease is the reader given specific guidance on handling a fresh muscle biopsy, where inappropriate fixation can make the sample useless for diagnosis. Use of histological stains and immunocytochemical markers are discussed in the first section with further reference to these methods throughout subsequent chapters dealing with specific diseases.

In the section on the central nervous system two chapters would seem to appeal to clinicians in particular. The chapter on Epilepsy deals in depth with the pathology associated with epilepsy and pathogenesis of epileptic brain damage although avoiding more than a superficial confrontation with the pathology of symptomatic epilepsy. Also of particular relevance to clinicians is "Ageing and the Dementias". This subject currently commands much attention. However, here the changes of normal ageing are compared with those seen in the dementias in an interesting and tightly written chapter.

It has always surprised me that brain tumours are not discussed in the standard neuropathology texts. In line with other volumes in the series, they are included here. There is sound advice on tumour grading but the statement that cytological examination of a tumour can give a definitive diagnosis may not meet with agreement of most neuropathologists who traditionally use smears for provisional diagnosis, depending on routinely processed sections for the definitive report.

The second part of the book gives a detailed and beautifully illustrated account of a wide range of diseases of peripheral nerve. The third section is an extensive description of muscle pathology paying particular attention to clinical correlation. Not many people have experience in ocular pathology but the detailed introduction in section four would give most pathologists the confidence to have a go. Subsequent sections give a lively account of ocular pathology.

The book is a worthy member of the Systemic Pathology Series, being easy to use for reference (despite the occasional very irritating internal reference within the index) and with illustrations of excellent standard. The book would be highly recommended for any department of histopathology or neuroscience, and at less than £100 might even be within the reach of the individual trainee in histopathology.

WANNEY SQUIER

**Intracranial Aneurysm Surgery: Techniques** By DS SAMSON AND HH BATJER. (Pp 248; \$57.00). New York, Futura Publishing Co, 1990. ISBN 0-87993-3711.

It is impossible not to enjoy this book. It is written by two relatively young neurosurgeons who have devoted a great deal of time and attention to the study of vascular diseases of the nervous system and whose enthusiasm shows forth on every page. They have drawn liberally on experiences of other authors most of which they have referenced, although the European surgeon might with justification wonder why so few of the references pertain to other than the American literature.

There are of course always circumstances to which exception can be taken. Thus the authors recommend the use of CT with and without contrast in the initial management of subarachnoid haemorrhage cases, but do not justify their decision to give contrast. This is sometimes thought to carry certain risks to patients with impaired blood brain barrier permeability in the early stages following subarachnoid haemorrhage, and its only potential justification would be to outline an aneurysm prior to angiography. Angiography itself being mandatory, CT scanning with contrast seems superfluous.

Their description of individual aneurysm approaches is meticulous and detailed. Surprisingly perhaps, they have the exaggerated respect for Sylvian veins which categorises a number of American surgeons, and the ease of access to the anterior circle provided by routine sectioning of these vessels (in the author's experience always without sequelae provided there is a reasonable Labbe's vein seen on angiography) is ignored. The reviewer particularly enjoyed their detailed description of drilling of the clinoid, and their careful annotation of the treacherous relationship of the recurrent artery of Heubner to the medial aspect of terminal carotid aneurysms.

In regard to the basilar circulation, of course their experience is necessarily dwarfed by the enormous experience of Charles Drake, but the only caveat is that the advantages of the combined supra and infratentorial approach for giant upper and mid basilar aneurysms deserves a mention, as does the utility of a small anterior temporal resection in the access to very large upper basilar aneurysms. It should be of interest to all American surgeons that the approach to middle cerebral aneurysms through the superior temporal gyrus was first developed in the United Kingdom, before being popularised by Heros and others.

The authors almost rigid adherence to a right sided approach to anterior communicating aneurysms is one which cannot be recommended. The easiest approach to any aneurysm is the approach which most readily reaches the neck, and if the aneurysm arises from the proximal AC1/communicating junction on the left side, a right sided approach will reach its fundus before its neck, and as a result inevitably will be more difficult.

Regrettably the book does contain a number of serious distortions of the language. The verb "to mandate" is not a particularly attractive one, there can never (unless one is a politician) be "several alternatives", and the plural of "atheroma" one suspects should be atheroma rather than atheromata. The latter presumably is a neologism for atheromatous plaques. It would be churlish to suggest that the book would benefit from being translated

into English, but certainly careful proof reading with this in mind would improve the second edition.

Altogether this is an enjoyable book which would be a valuable addition to the library of any neurosurgical unit. It may be read with interest by all aneurysm surgeons and the young will find it of particular value in highlighting points of risk and difficulty which the authors have been careful to document.

LINDSAY SYMON

**Colour Atlas of Micro-Oto-Neurosurgical Procedures.** By VITTORIO COLLETTI AND JAMES E. BENECKE JR. (Pp 112; Price: DM160.00). Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag.

It is nearly 20 years since I first visited Dr. William House in Los Angeles to see his technique of temporal bone surgery. I was amazed by the way in which with drill in one hand and sucker in the other, the mastoid was opened, the bony labyrinth removed and the internal auditory meatus displayed, and all this within one hour. In the introduction to this book, Dr. House tells us how this was learnt in the morgue of the Los Angeles County Museum at nights and weekends with his wife, a Registered Nurse, acting as assistant. He describes how his surgical techniques were developed in this way in response to the changing demands of his clinical practice. A classical learning of surgical craft on the cadaver before the living patient was approached.

After the extensive introduction, the book is somewhat of a disappointment. Multiple procedures are described and illustrated, but all are performed on fixed cadavers, which do not have the true appearance of living tissue. In the neck dissections the fixed tissues all look much the same and the absence of much in the way of markers makes identification of the structures almost impossible. The book is probably most useful as a guide in temporal bone dissection, but its value in this would be greatly increased if the text and the pictures had been placed together. As it is the paragraphs of text with alphabetical identification sometimes cannot be related to the numerically identified illustrations. Putting text and pictures together, providing orientation, and marking the important structures would greatly improve this book as a guide to dissection. There are descriptions of operations for acoustic neuroma, microvascular decompression and glomus tumour but no operative illustrations of these procedures. Despite these failings, the book is useful in indicating the range of approaches now available and should encourage more interdisciplinary collaboration between Otolologists and Neurosurgeons in this interesting and developing area.

RD ILLINGWORTH

**Neurobiology of Panic Disorder Frontiers of Clinical Neuroscience Series.** Vol. 8. By J C BALLENGER. (Pp 391; Price: \$96.00). 1990. ISBN 0-471-56210-6.

Panic disorder, indeed the very existence of such a condition, has become one of the most contentious topics in psychiatry. The concept

has been officially codified in the American diagnostic system, the DSM, and the International Classification of Diseases will follow suit. The separation of a diagnostic category within the broader group of anxiety disorders followed observations that some forms of these disorders responded to treatment with drugs conventionally described as antidepressants. The original observation is generally attributed to DF Klein although priority of publication must go to West and Dally who recorded their observation with iproniazid. It may be argued that the experience of panic attacks is a necessary clinical feature for response of an anxiety disorder to antidepressant drugs. It may also be disputed, and certainly is, that panic attacks have origin in primary neurological disturbance but the weight of evidence is for a neurobiological disturbance probably related to the type of primary depressive disorder which psychiatrists have less difficulty in accepting as a basically somatic disorder.

The dispute has been productive and a large amount of research has been stimulated. The study of the biological basis of panic disorder is leading to a more balanced consideration of the mind-body equation and of physical as well as psychological processes in the genesis of anxiety states and other states conventionally categorised as "neurotic" disorders.

The present book is a good summary of research on panic disorder as a somatic disorder. It is not complete for it is to be followed by a second volume which will present the clinical aspects. It is a worthwhile collection of contributions by a large number of authors; that the authors are mostly from the USA is no surprise for it is in that country that most of the biological research has been conducted.

The editor has succeeded admirably in the task of culling contributions from a large number of centres, covering animal models, genetics, childhood observations, brain mechanisms and challenge strategies, diagnostic differentiation, immunology, sleep abnormalities and brain imaging studies. Much of the material has been especially written although some has been a reprinting of previous published studies. Some authors summarise studies in a useful way whilst others present new findings apparently for the first time. Some of the work is not directly concerned with Panic Disorder but all is relevant to the topic of the neurobiology of anxiety. One of the two British contributions, from Sandler's laboratory, presents the little known work on the endogenous MAOI, Tribulin.

Perhaps the most fascinating area of study is the neuro-anatomical work based on brain imaging techniques and cerebral blood flow studies and this area is particularly well represented with high quality colour illustrative material. Reiman is still the only source of information concerning PET and Panic Disorder but he presented the work up to the latest published study in 1990. The book is a mine of useful information for the researchers. Clinicians may prefer to await the succeeding volume.

RP SNAITH

**Management of Posttraumatic Spinal Instability: Neurosurgical Topics Series.** Edited by P R COOPER. (Pp 213; Price: Members \$70, Non-members \$80, includes

\$10 for postage and handling outside US and Canada only.) 1990. Chicago: American Assoc. of Neurological Surgeons. ISBN 0-9624246-2-5.

This volume is to be welcomed both on its own account and also as the first in a series of monographs commissioned by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons in the series Neurosurgical Topics. Edited by Paul Cooper MD, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at New York University Medical Center it contains contributions from a number of distinguished authors both from the fields of Neurosurgery and of Orthopaedics.

Both the conservative and surgical management of spinal trauma are discussed clearly and in great detail: each section contains multiple references to the English literature up to 1988. The technical notes on spinal instrumentation are excellent and very well illustrated. The production of the book and in particular the reproduction of the scans and x-rays was of a very high order.

This volume is reasonably priced and highly recommended: it should find a place in every neurosurgical library. Further monographs in this series are eagerly awaited.

AE BOOTH

**The Blood-Brain Barrier, Amino Acids and Peptides.** By M B SEGAL AND B V ZLOKOVIC. (Pp 201; Price: UK£39.95; US\$62.00; Dfl. 155.00). 1990. Dordrecht, Kluwer Academic Publishers Group. ISBN 0-746-20122-2.

This timely monograph deals primarily with neuropeptides, their function, distribution, metabolism and transport, and it is in this area that it makes its most important contributions. The discussion of the blood brain barrier and amino acids is adequate but the treatment of peptides is excellent. The discovery of new neuropeptides and new locations and functions for those that are already known has occurred so rapidly that it is almost impossible to get an overview of the field. These important compounds have an enormous variety of functions and operate in both neural and non-neural systems. Many have been discovered in organs other than the brain and then found to be present in the central or peripheral nervous system. Known functions vary from modulation of neurotransmission and regulation of hormonal secretion to immunomodulation, inflammatory effects and effects on intestinal motility. Since the field is in such rapid evolution and the research involves so many different disciplines, it has been very difficult to get an overview.

The treatment of neuropeptides is surprisingly comprehensive for such a compact volume. Extremely well referenced, it contains a wealth of information. Unfortunately, the field of neuropeptides is so varied and in such an early stage of development that it consists of a large number of unrelated and loosely related bits and pieces of information that do not fit into any coherent pattern. As a result, readability suffers somewhat. There is, as yet, no good unifying theory or set of systematic relationships that will allow one to make sense of the field. Indeed, it may be that the field will prove so chaotic that no systematic theory is possible. Nevertheless, this volume brings together most of what is