

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Parkinson's Disease: Anatomy, Pathology and Therapy** (Advances in Neurology, Vol. 53). Edited by M B STREIFLER, A D KORCZYK, E MELAMED AND M B H YODIM. (Pp 596; Price: \$150.00). New York, Raven Press. 1990. ISBN 0 88167 634 9.

The flyleaf of this book would have us all believe that it is a timely review of current research in Parkinson's disease, when in fact it is yet another book based on papers presented at a Symposium. In this case it is a highly prestigious meeting, the Ninth International Symposium on Parkinson's Disease, held in Jerusalem in June 1988. These Symposia have happened every three years since the early days of Levodopa, and have marked the phenomenal success that is research into Parkinson's Disease. Each meeting has tended to have its trendy topic. The last time in New York it was Methyl Phenyl Tetra Hydropryridine [MPTP Parkinsonism]. This time the air was thick with rumours about foetal transplants for Parkinson's disease that had recently been performed. The MPTP story could now be assessed. The euphoria of the New York meeting had largely subsided, but MPTP had left its mark in two important ways—animal models for Parkinsonism and a putative role for endo- or exo- toxins. Similarly the place of neural implantation will have to await the next meeting in three years time. In this book there are only three papers on adrenal implants. Stanley Burns concludes that the "Madrado procedure" appeared to produce improvements in some patients with PD. However, his opening remarks would seem a mite premature "... the start of a new era of tissue transplantation to the brain as a general approach to the treatment of Parkinson's disease."

Otherwise there is a wide variety of different topics discussed here. Lewy Body disease, corticobasal degeneration and new pharmacological approaches. The 500 papers presented here were presumably those from workers well enough organised to produce their manuscripts by the end of the meeting. Thus, there is little to get the book together, and one can only sample as takes one's interest. One tires of hearing that James Parkinson thought the senses uninjured and one would hope that the reader of such a tome would be well aware of the basic signs and symptoms of PD. Much of this repetition could be avoided if the main platform speakers, who produced review papers, led the discussion of each section of the book with a well directed and informed review. Subsequent papers could then be spared, going over the same ground and could concentrate on methodology, results and conclusions to their work. Can I suggest that format for advances in neurology volume 75, 1991? The early advances series used to recall the discussions after the papers. Presumably there now is too little space to do this. This often proved to be the most interesting part of the meeting, with novel ideas from the like of the late Andre Barbeau whose fervent imagination was much missed here.

This addition to the Advances in Neurology series is glossily produced as always but will have limited appeal except to libraries who need to complete the series. After all, it is already three years out of date, and everyone is planning their papers for the Tenth International Symposium in Japan 1991.

CG CLOUGH

**Community integration following traumatic brain injury.** Edited by JS KREUTZER AND P WEHMAN. (Pp 338; Price: £32.50). Sevenoaks, Edward Arnold. 1990. ISBN 0-340-537094.

Brain injury rehabilitation has advanced rapidly over the past decade, and the spotlight of interest has moved recently to the problems surrounding resettlement in the community. This is one of a number of books exploring the field, indeed several have appeared since this one was begun. Although the distinguished writer of the preface tells us that it "highlights the most current thinking", most of the authors are from a single centre (the Medical College of Virginia), and some details in the text are already contradicted by research published between the writing and the appearance. Such lags seem unavoidable.

The book has seven sections, covering Medical and Physical, Neuropsychological, Community, Vocational (i.e. work), Family, Paediatric and Public Policy aspects of rehabilitation. Overall it lacks a logical structure of relevance to "community integration". In the first two sections the connection is often artificial, and chapters throughout the book have repetitious preambles on epidemiology and the nature of the head injury. As so often, there are two drawbacks for British readers. First, the language is almost impenetrable at times: what does "Outcome Orientation and Functional Equivalencies" mean, for example? Second, in some important areas there is little correspondence between the American and British institutions. This is of course most obvious in the Vocational and Public Policy sections.

Many chapters provide forms for recording assessment and progress. Whilst these can be useful, they add to the plethora of existing instruments. Ironically, one group of authors criticises all previous family research, including Glasgow's, for "failure to employ well-validated or standardized measures", yet appends its own General Health and History Questionnaire, which "was developed to provide information similar to" that of the Glasgow instrument.

Nevertheless, several chapters offer valuable ideas and information, and should be helpful to those in this country who are trying to establish coherent organisation in head injury rehabilitation. Of particular value are those on Communicative Skills (sensibly concentrating on the neglected field of pragmatics), Memory Training in work settings, and the Rehabilitation of Children; the Practical Guide to Family Intervention is extremely useful. Sbordone's chapter on psychological treatment is an outstanding primer of assessment and understanding of the problems of head injury, but one wonders what it is doing in this book!

PETER EAMES

**Head Injury - The Facts.** A Guide for Families and Care-givers. By D GRONWALL, P WRIGHTSON AND P WADDELL. (Pp 147; Price £5.95.) Oxford University Press. 1990. ISBN 0-19-261922-5 paperback

This book can safely be recommended to patients or relatives. It is factual, does not lead to any serious false hopes, and is realistic enough to allow for (but not condone) the present inadequate level of resources devoted to the care of patients with head injury. It could also be read profitably by professionals unfamiliar with head injury when confronted by their first case. Indeed the text may almost be too academic for many lay readers in Britain.

The chapters cover most aspects, starting with the emergency medical and surgical treatment, and progressing on to long-term adjustment. Some typical cases are used to illustrate points. The statements made are all sensible and based on what evidence there is; the authors do not hesitate to admit that there is considerable uncertainty in almost all aspects of head injury management. The layout is good, with important points emphasised in boxes.

The authors have considerable research experience in the field and presumably have developed a service in New Zealand—in fact the last chapter outlines how services should be developed. Their bias is towards the effects of head injury on cognition and social interaction (ie changes in "personality" and behaviour), and the physical aspects are given comparatively little attention.

I only have one or two areas of disagreement. I feel this book may perpetuate the belief that "personality change" is a common if not inevitable consequence of head injury, whereas my own experience suggests that actual change is rare. It also seems to overemphasise the changes in social interaction; again my own experience suggest that most patients continue with normal behaviour. Headway literature also emphasises these problems, so much so that relatives anxiously wait for them to appear. Lastly the book does not discuss the problem of severe long-term disability.

This is a good book which fills a major gap in the literature available to patients. It should be available on each neurosurgical ward and trauma ward (possibly for sale, in order to make money for patient services in the new commercial NHS!).

DT WADE

**New Ideas on the Structure of the Nervous System in Man and Vertebrates.** By SANTIAGO RAMON Y CAJAL. (Pp 201; Price: £26.95.) London, The MIT Press. 1990. ISBN 0-262-03166-3.

Ramon y Cajal is remembered by Neuro-pathologists for the metallic impregnations he introduced, especially his gold chloride method for both types of astrocyte, which was simple, and always worked. But his fame in the last two decades of the 19th century rested on his remarkable achievements with metallic stains, chiefly his own modification of the Golgi method. With luck, this would stain a small number only of the nerve cells present, thus allowing them to be clearly followed over