

and CT are compared only when appropriate. The text seeks to identify not only the MR abnormalities but the role that MR should play in the investigation and management of patients. Approximately 50% of the book consists of descriptions of the pathology and clinical features of the various disorders; most of these are clear, succinct, accurate, and recent developments are identified and referenced.

The book is comprehensive, well written, and is a pleasure to read. It is extensively illustrated with high quality, clearly annotated illustrations. It is a must for every practising Neuroradiologist and should be available for reference by Neurologists, Neurosurgeons and associated specialists. While the content may be too detailed for general radiologists—either established or in training, they can easily gain clear insight into the application of MR in the investigation of patients with disorders of the nervous system.

E TEASDALE

Pupillography: Methodological Aspects and Application in Diabetes Mellitus. By A. DE VOS. (Pp 140; Price: Dfl 50; US\$28.) 1990. Amsterdam, Thesis Publishers, Bickersgracht 60, 1013 LG Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ISBN 90-5170-063-6.

This small book represents the doctoral thesis of Dr de Vog and deals with both the techniques and use of pupillometry, particularly in relation to diabetes mellitus. It is undoubtedly for the cognoscenti in the field of disorders of the autonomic nervous system, and there is little of value for the practising neurologist.

A newly developed infrared reflection technique of pupillometry is described, but it is not compared with other techniques. The clinically related chapters do suggest that pupillometry is a particularly sensitive method for detecting subclinical autonomic nerve dysfunction. However, there is little to recommend this book although the research has been competently performed. Doctoral theses should remain in University libraries; there is no need for them to progress to the publishers' printing presses. If some of the work deserves wider exposure then surely the refereed scientific journal is the most appropriate forum.

CHRISTOPHER KENNARD

Nerve Injuries and their Repair: A Critical Appraisal. By SIR SYDNEY SUNDERLAND. (Pp 538 Illustrated; Price: £79.50.) 1990. Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone. ISBN 0-443-04161-X.

It is remarkable how the Second World War engendered individuals who contributed so extensively to knowledge about peripheral nerve injury and the insights that this gives into the neurobiology of peripheral nerve: Paul Weiss in the States, JZ Young and HJ Seddon in the UK and Sidney Sunderland in Australia. Sunderland has been the great chronicler of what happened in that period and subsequently. His gargantuan *Nerves and Nerve Injuries* was first published in 1968,

followed by a second edition 10 years later. On this occasion, instead of producing a third edition, he has provided us with an update. *Nerve Injuries and their Repair: A Critical Appraisal* is a "satellite or companion volume" to what has gone before. Despite the spectacular advances in the neurobiology of peripheral nerve that have accrued in recent years, Sir Sidney has wisely chosen to restrict himself to the subject of nerve injury and repair. The book is written in his characteristic didactic style which relies heavily on tabulation. As in the previous two books, the wealth of information that it contains is enormous. There is inevitable overlap with his previous books, but this is justified in order to make the present work self-contained.

Sir Sidney is happiest where he deals with traumatic lesions of peripheral nerve and their consequences, less so when he ventures into more neurological areas. There are many, for example, who would not find his views on "costoclavicular compression" acceptable; similarly for the mechanism of the carpal tunnel syndrome. These caveats aside, the book is a remarkable achievement and is full of the thoughtful insights of someone who has been actively involved in peripheral nerve injury for no less than 50 years.

PK THOMAS

The Diencephalon and Sleep. Edited by M MANCIA AND G MARINI. (Pp 402; Price: \$72.00). New York, Raven Press. 1990. ISBN 0-88167-682-9.

This book comprises the proceedings of a Satellite Symposium of the Twelfth European Neurosciences Association Meeting held in Stresa on the Lago Maggiore in Italy in September, 1989. The participants were from a wide range of different neurobiological disciplines, principally neuroanatomy, neurophysiology and pharmacology. There was only a small clinical representation.

The Editors have divided the presentations into four sections entitled ascending brain stem projections, hypothalamic regulations of sleep and wakefulness, thalamic mechanisms in the sleep-wake cycle and chemical factors and peripheral events in sleep processes.

Clearly a great deal of fascinating work is going on in the field of experimental sleep research. This book offers a relatively up to date reference source principally for fellow research workers. It is not intended for a clinical audience and although it will undoubtedly be of interest to those who specialise in sleep related problems it does not make easy bedside reading for the general neurologist.

FRED SCHON

Cerebral Contusions, Lacerations and Hematomas. Advances in Neurotraumatology Series, Vol 3, Editor-in-Chief RP VIGOUROUX. (Pp 259 Illustrated; Price DM 160.). Wien, Springer-Verlag. 1991. ISBN 3-211-81982-7.

This not very large volume contains 10 chap-

ters, 9 of which are concerned with the physical effects of trauma on the substance of the brain, while the last deals with evoked potentials in prognosis after head injuries.

The authors are mainly from Germany, with contributors from Greece, Poland, France and Sweden. Though an English language editor is acknowledged in the foreword, it cannot be said that his efforts have been very successful. In any translation there is a likelihood that subtleties of meaning and emphasis will be ironed out and this is certainly so in the present volume which the lazy reader who expects the writer to do the work of rendering complex matters such as the physics of brain injury, easily understood, will find hard reading.

A more serious criticism is that there is little in the book which would be new or interesting to the sort of person to whom such a specialised monograph is presumably aimed. Perhaps an exception is the chapter on cerebellar contusions and haematomas which presents a rather large collection of this uncommon clinical condition. The chapter on evoked potentials is also a useful review of the topic.

There are many illustrations; drawings of complex machinery for delivering blows to the heads of primates or models, elaborate graphs, photographs of contused brain, whole or in section, and CT scans. Each contributor supplies a large list of references.

The book cannot be recommended to the individual though it might be of use in a departmental library.

T KING

Meningiomas. Edited by OSSAMA AL-MEFTY. (Pp 630; Price \$169.00). New York, Raven Press, 1990. ISBN 0-88167-713-2.

This multi-author book is divided into eight main sections: history, pathology and biology, special considerations (children, the elderly, asymptomatic, animals, multiple, bony reaction/invasion and haemangiopericytoma) imaging, adjuvant treatment modalities, adjuvants of surgery—intracranial and spinal. The subject of meningiomas is comprehensively covered. Inevitably in a multi-author book a particular aspect may be covered more than once. But, this helps to maintain the balance between individual views particularly in those aspects of the biology, pathology and management of meningiomas that remain controversial e.g. receptor status, hormonal and dopaminergic manipulation and the role of radiotherapy.

This excellent monograph which is well printed and produced on high quality paper can be thoroughly recommended to all practising neurosurgeons and in particular to the candidates for the Specialist Fellowship in neurosurgery. I not only enjoyed reading it but improved my knowledge. The book is generously illustrated, but a few of the operative photographs would have benefitted from being in colour rather than monochrome. My only reservation is personal in that I do not favour the use of abbreviations (SAS—subarachnoid space; PNM—primary neuraxial meningioma; PEM—primary extraneuraxial meningioma; PIM—primary intracranial meningioma). They are used to excess in a few of the chapters (e.g. chapter 8)