

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)

in the book leading to unnecessary complexity which in my view interrupts the flow when reading. Overall Professor Al-Mefty has achieved his aim of embodying the progress which has occurred in the fifty years since Cushing and Eisenhardt published their monograph on meningiomas.

MDM SHAW

**Essentials of Neuroimaging.** By J R KIRKWOOD. (Pp 497; Illustrated. Price £65.00). Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone, 1990. ISBN 0443-08479-3.

This book is an attempt to provide an overview of Neuroimaging and its role in clinical management for trainees in Neuroradiology, Neurology and Neurosurgery. There are twelve chapters devoted to intracranial pathology, including trauma, and two to the spine.

The first chapter, dealing with techniques and anatomy, is disappointing. Twenty-eight pages are devoted to a detailed description of arterial and venous anatomy, eight to Magnetic Resonance, and only half a page to Computed Tomography, which is dismissed erroneously as "based on the same principles as all radiography". Radionuclide scanning and Doppler Ultrasound appear briefly in a separate section on cerebrovascular disease. No mention is made of the merits of digital acquisition of data.

The clinical approach in succeeding chapters is better balanced, both in regard to clinical topics and radiological investigations. The role of each imaging method is discussed and emphasis placed on conditions of clinical importance. Revision lists are provided in strategically placed boxed inserts throughout. The method works well in the sections dealing with intracranial disorders, less well in the spine where insufficient stress is placed on the increasing importance of Magnetic Resonance. The illustrations, which are numerous, well chosen and generally of good quality, are the chief strength of this book and make it worthy of study.

Here is a brave effort to cover a very wide range of clinical activity. It inevitably lacks depth and unfortunately the imaging techniques themselves are disappointingly presented.

I ISHERWOOD

**Tremor** By RJ ELBLE AND WC KOLLER. (Pp 204; Price: \$39.50). Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1991. ISBN 0-8018-4024-4

Despite its high population prevalence, in publishing terms tremor has always been the poor relation to Parkinson's disease. Thus, other than the multi-author book edited by Findley and Capildeo in 1984, I am not aware of any other volumes devoted to the subject. Thus "duograph" by Elble and Koller admirably fills the gap. It is one of that select band of neurology books that is actually produced with the reader in mind. Thus, it is not too big, not too heavy and not too long, and divided into bite-sized chapters that can even be tackled in a standing position on the Northern Line. The book itself is well produced and printed and, miraculously for a first edition, I could detect only one typographical error in the text itself. The list of 786 references is at the end of the book, and each chapter ends with a summary. This latter feature is particularly useful for innumerate like myself who might balk at the sight of seemingly complex equations in the chapter on measurement of tremor.

The authors tell us clearly and concisely not only what we do know about tremor but also, just as importantly, expose considerable areas of uncertainty. Thus, after reading both sides of the arguments, we learn how many of the questions concerning the whereabouts of tremor generators, the significance of alternating versus co-contracting EMG patterns, and the capacity of peripheral perturbations to reset certain tremors, are still open and undecided. To take another example, where does enhanced physiological tremor end and benign essential tremor begin (not known), and can tremor recordings distinguish between them? (no).

It is difficult to find fault. However, the 1955 paper by Schwab and Chafetz concerned procyclidine, not amantadine. Perhaps dystonic tremor could have been given more space, the tremor of dysgammaglobulinaemic neuropathy a mention, and the usefulness of jaw tremor in distinguishing between parkinsonian and essential tremor might have been addressed, but these are only minor quibbles.

Overall this is an excellent book. It should be a part of all neurological libraries, and many neurologists will also wish to have a personal copy on their shelves.

NIAL QUINN

**Neural Transplantation: From Molecular Basis to Clinical Applications.** Progress in Brain Research Vol 82. Edited by SB DUNNETT AND S-J RICHARDS. (Pp 743 Illustrated; Price: Dfl 440). 1990. Amsterdam, Elsevier Science Publishers BV. ISBN 0-444-81137-0

This volume records some of the papers presented at the Symposium on Neural Transplantation in 1989. It is already two years out of date and is published only one year before the next Symposium on this subject is due to take place. However it brings within the covers of one volume a comprehensive review of knowledge and experience in this field to 1989.

There are few areas of basic and clinical research where there is a more pressing need for an understanding of biological mechanisms and their clinical application than in the field of neural transplantation. This volume has sections devoted to genetic manipulation of cells for neural grafts, immunological considerations in the brain, and extensive review of experience of glial and neuronal grafting in animals. Finally there are reports of clinical experience with adrenal and nigral grafts.

This is a useful book because it provides information on the experience of most of the centres with an active programme of research in 1989. Inevitably most of the papers pose more questions than they answer but progress has been so rapid that some of the answers are already available in subsequent publications.

This book is an essential reference work for the library of any institution where neural transplantation research is being done. It is also a valuable source of data and references for anyone seeking information in this rapidly advancing area of neuroscience.

R GODWIN-AUSTEN

#### Erratum

**Vigabatrin and psychosis—JNNP 1991;54:435–9.**

The authors omitted the following paragraph from the "Patients and methods" section:

The illustrated awake EEG recordings were carried out using the standard 10/20 system of electrode placement, an amplitude of 100 mV/cm and a paper speed of 30 mm per second (the time marker in seconds is shown at the top of each illustration), with a high frequency filter of 120 Hertz (fig 1b, 2a and 2b) or 60 Hertz (fig 1a) and a time constant of 0.3 second.