one immersed in clinical neurology, but will prove to be essential reading for all involved, however tangentially, in this area.

C G CLOUGH

Lasers in Neurosurgery. (Lasers in Medicine and Surgery Series 3). Edited by R V JEFFREYS (Pp 298; Price: £40.00). London, Chapman & Hall Medical. 1992. ISBN 0-412-30950-5.

This hardback book comprises 20 chapters totalling 300 pages on various aspects of the use of lasers in neurosurgery. The list of contributors is impressive and the sequence of chapters is logical.

The first 60 pages comprise what is an almost obligatory section on the physics and engineering aspect of lasers. Included is a discourse on the interaction of laser energy with neurological tissue, which is admirable for its detailed content, but which must strike a chord only for a limited audience. For the average neurosurgeon who uses a laser it is analogous to an explanation of how the micro-circuitry of a colour TV works—and just about as useful. I found it too detailed to be of any practical value, but it does provide a good over-view of the experimental work on lasers and neurological tissue.

There is an excellent chapter on the safe use of lasers in the operating theatre, which is recommended to all who are responsible for surgical lasers. There follow five chapters on different types of laser (CO_2, Nd-YAG, Argon laser, contact laser and tunable lasers). One of the best chapters in the book concerns techniques in laser neurosurgery and should be read by all neurosurgeons proposing to use this instrument.

The second half of the book is taken up by a series of chapters concerning the use of lasers in different clinical conditions. The chapter by P J Kelly on Stereotactic and CT Assisted Surgery is recommended. The contribution by Fred Epstein is an excellent monograph on the management of intramedullary tumours in childhood, but with only a brief reference in passing to the use of the laser. The book is concluded by a brief chapter by the Editor, who sees neurosurgeons either as laser enthusiasts or laser antagonists.

I strongly recommend this book for anyone who uses the neurosurgical laser or is proposing to do so. I suspect it will enhance the quality of laser neurosurgery and its pragmatic presentation should convince even the laser-sceptic.

R A JOHNSTON

Intracerebral Hematomas. Edited by H H KAUFMAN (Pp 240; Price: $150.00). New York, Raven Press. 1992. ISBN 0 88167 843 0.

In the preface the Editor states that there has been no summary of recent developments regarding the pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment of spontaneous intracerebral haematomas, and the book sets out to remedy this situation. At the outset one should state that in general it succeeds very well. The authors are drawn from the USA, with the exception of two authors each from Japan and Germany; however the facts and discussions range worldwide. The magnitude of the problem is illustrated by figures from the USA where 500,000 new cases of stroke occur each year, of which approximately 75,000 are a result of intracranial haemorrhage; in 1988 there were 2,930,000 survivors from previous years, of whom 440,000 were survivors of intracranial haemorrhage (and this is in a country which has a low incidence with respect to other countries).

All the chapters are in reality review articles and are well up to date. The initial topics cover epidemiology, pathophysiology, hypertension, clinical features and radiology. These are followed by some good chapters on topics that are not easy to research oneself, such as haemorrhage due to infections, neoplasms, vasculitides, drugs and haematological conditions, and haemorrhage during pregnancy. These latter topics would be a Godsend to anyone wishing to review the literature for an unusual problem or a case presentation. Finally a case is made for a more aggressive surgical approach for some patients with haematomas; the arguments are fairly proposed and allow the reader to make up his/her own mind. There is some repetition between chapters, but this has allowed the chapters to stand alone and thus they can be read out of sequence. The illustrations, which essentially are radiological, are of variable quality ranging from excellent to old and poor.

The price is perhaps a little expensive for the book's size, but I certainly would recommend it to the libraries of every neurosurgical and neurological department, as well as to postgraduate libraries in general hospitals.

R V JEFFREYS

SHORT NOTICES

The Experience of Psychopathology. Edited by MARTEN DE VRIES. (Pp 429; Price: H/b £55.00; $110.00). Cambridge University Press. 1992. ISBN 0 521 40339 1

Neuropsychological Assessment and Intervention. By CHARLES J GOLDEN, ERIC ZILLMER AND MARY SPIERS (Pp 306; Price: $46.75). 1991. Illinois, Charles C Thomas. ISBN 0 398 05754 0

This beautifully printed book reviews theories of brain function and neuroanatomy; then it details intelligence scales, the Halstead-Reitan and Wechsler test batteries and Luria's neuropsychological tests. Their applications to neurological disorders and a rehabilitation programme conclude this useful volume. If the neurology section is very weak and in places inaccurate, the neuropsychology is much more explicit and authoritative.