

should be available for reference for neurologists, psychiatrists and paediatricians as well as geneticists and investigators in this field.

RB GODWIN-AUSTEN

Spinal Cord Dysfunction Vol III. Functional Stimulation. Edited by L S ILLIS. (Pp 360; Price £50.00). 1992. Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-261919-5.

This is a timely monograph on spinal cord stimulation and forms the third volume of a trilogy devoted to spinal cord dysfunction. The editor draws together several contributions about the role of functional electrical stimulation in the rehabilitation of the damaged nervous system. As far as is possible only data derived from human studies is discussed. Most authors describe very recent work as well as giving a comprehensive review of the older literature. For the general reader, the chapters on spinal cord stimulation are probably the most useful.

The first third discusses the basic science "aspects" and a well balanced summary is given by the editor. The middle third assesses electrical stimulation of the peripheral nervous system. Little benefit is observed in chronic upper motor neurone syndromes, but useful advances have been made in the management of impotence and bladder control in paraplegics and in the management of faecal incontinence. The last third of the book discusses spinal cord stimulation. This is perhaps the most interesting of the three principal sections and starts with an excellent account of the role of spinal cord stimulation in the management of neurogenic pain syndromes. Bearing in mind that this therapeutic avenue is usually used as a last resort the reported results are heartening. Benefit seems also to occur in patients with various ischaemic conditions though the mechanism is unclear. An interesting chapter then follows on the neuropeptide changes in the spinal cord attributable to chronic stimulation. Future research in this area is likely to be fascinating. The last chapter on spinal opioidergic activation discusses the practical difficulties in the use of intrathecal morphine for spasticity and bladder irritability.

Overall the book is very readable and would be of interest to readers only vaguely familiar with this area.

JEREMY DICK

Stroke: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis and Management 2nd Edition. Edited by HJM BARNETT, JP MOHR, BM STEIN, and FM YATSU. (Pp 1270 Illustrated; Price: £165). 1992. ISBN 0-443-087326-6. Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone.

This massive compendium costs £165. There are 73 contributors, mainly from North America with a few contributions from Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Israel; the UK is noticeably absent. The coverage is wide-ranging and includes pathophysiology, imaging, clinical manifestations and therapy both medical and surgical; there is also a good section on medical diseases and stroke. Each contribution is accompanied by an extensive bibliography.

The book suffers, however, from lack of strong editorial direction. There are no cross references; the work is in effect a compendium of 73 separate articles, which causes problems. For example, under completed stroke it is stated that anticoagulants serve no purpose after major infarction and their value for more modest ischaemia is unproven. It goes on to say that their superiority to aspirin and ticlopidine is unknown implying the latter are of proven value which must be doubted. One has to look elsewhere to find that anticoagulants for infarction are of value, when the infarct is embolic in origin. Readers knowledgeable about strokes will no doubt find their way around; the less well informed person who is 'looking something up' could well be misled by the lack of cross reference between sections.

The contribution by JP Mohr on classification is particularly helpful as is that on platelet function and antiplatelet therapy by Babette B Weksler. However, in the latter, the account of ticlopidine (which is unwisely hailed in the preface to the entire volume as a flourishing advance) is inadequate. The side-effects, including the dangerous neutropenia, are faithfully recorded but no attempt is made to make a risk benefit analysis. Comparison with aspirin is confined to the reduction in the number of further vascular events; the incidence of side-effects and their seriousness are not compared. A cautious but encouraging attitude is adopted in the section on thrombolytic therapy.

The section on carotid endarterectomy relates the widespread, indiscriminate use of this operation which was followed by intemperate criticism leading to a dramatic retreat from an operation which has now been shown to be of value for symptomatic stenosis greater than 70 per cent. Although the book includes the word management in its title, a derisory 13 of the 1270 pages are devoted to rehabilitation.

It therefore provides useful access to a lot of information but as a definitive guide to the management of cerebrovascular disease it is disappointing.

JOHN MARSHALL

Neuromethods 21: Animal Models of Neurological Disease, 1 Neurodegenerative Diseases. Edited by AA BOULTON, GB BAKER and RF BUTTERWORTH. (Pp 368; Price: £76.00). 1992. Published by Humana Press. UK Distrib: Chichester, J Wiley & Sons Ltd. ISBN 0-89603-208-6.

Experimental animal models have played a major role in evaluating both pathophysiological mechanisms and treatment approaches to a variety of neurological disorders. Such studies will continue to be of prime importance in complementing data obtained from patients. The focus of the book is on both common and uncommon diseases including Alzheimer's Disease, Huntington's chorea, Parkinson's disease (both rodent and primate models), genetic dysmyelination, non-genetic models of myelin disorders, the cerebellar ataxias and the rare Lesch-Nyhan disease.

There is an opening chapter on the ethics of animal models of neurological diseases which cogently discusses various general ethical principles underlying animal

experimentation in particular assessment of pain. Legal aspects of such work are also included, an original idea. The remaining chapters vary somewhat in length but they are all first-rate, wide ranging and show a considerable uniformity of style. The general format has been to give a general introduction to the disease which is then followed by practical details which vary in their extent. For example, some chapters such as the ones on Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease give detailed experimental protocols which would allow the reader to carry out his/her own experimentation. The rationale, advantages and disadvantages of the various techniques are described clearly and even for the non-specialist such as myself it is possible to gain very useful insights into the methodologies. In some cases, such as the chapter on genetic dysmyelination, one is given details of the various animal models rather than detailed protocols. In discussing non-genetic myelin models, there is an extensive general discussion of virally induced CNS myelin disorders which is useful, especially for the non-virologist.

Overall this is an excellent book. The chapters are very comprehensive on the whole, topical and well-written. It is also an impressive general review of experimental animal methods. My only negative comment is the price £76.00.

PETER GE KENNEDY

SHORT NOTICES

Neuromethods: 19 Animal Models in Psychiatry, II. Edited by AA BOULTON, GB BAKER AND MT MARTIN-IVERSON. (Pp 386; Price £80.00). 1991. Chichester, Wiley (UK Distributors) Clifton NJ USA, The Human Press Inc. ISBN 0-89603-177-2.

Recent Advances in Neuropharmacology (Journal of Neural Transmission, Supplementum 34). Edited by H BONISCH, K-H GRAEF, S Z LANGER AND E SCHOMIG. (Pp 221; Price DM120. Reduced price for subscribers to "Journal of Neural Transmission"—DM108). 1991. Wien, Springer-Verlag. ISBN 3-211-82300-X.

Neuromethods: 18 Animal Models in Psychiatry, I. Edited by AA BOULTON, GB BAKER AND MT MARTIN-IVERSON. (Pp 411; Price £80.00). 1991. USA, Humana Press. UK Distrib: J Wiley & Sons Ltd, Chichester. ISBN 0-89603-198-5.

MRI of the Brain III Neoplastic Disease: The Raven MRI Teaching Series. Series Editors R B LUFKIN, WM G BRADLEY, JR AND M BRANT-ZAWADZKI. (Pp 216; \$75.00). 1991. New York, Raven Press. ISBN 0-88167-702-7.