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 infant 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 uniquely 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. Conclusively, 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 interperate 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 dissonance 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


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 to complement the 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 diseases, 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 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 detailed practical advice which allows 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


