This is an excellent new volume in the series which covers much of the recent work on the genetic basis of neurological disease. It appears at a particularly apt time for neurologists and their subject as the traditional phenotypic description of disease states is being replaced and superseded by genotypic classifications—for example, autosomal dominant cerebellar ataxias. However the technical nature of modern genetics can overwhelm the non-specialist and indeed parts of this book fall into this trap by over stressing the methodology behind identifying the genetic abnormality. Nevertheless no chapter does this to the exclusion of the clinical features of the disorder under discussion, and therefore the less genetically minded reader can swim precariously through these taxing sections.

The chapters of particular merit in this book that manage to balance the clinical detail with the genetic deficit are those concerned with the inherited movement disorders, the motor neuron and neurological tumours. Indeed all chapters emphasise the clinical implications of the genetic condition, both in terms of diagnosis and screening. However some chapters of this volume would have benefited from the use of more tables or figures to summarise data presented in the text, for example the clinical characteristics of the different types of muscular dystrophies. Furthermore a specific chapter on disorders of trinucleotide repeats may have been useful in view of the current interest in this area, although most are adequately discussed in their relevant chapters.

Overall this book is a useful (and relatively cheap) addition to the series produced by Baillière Tindall, and is recommended to all neurologists regardless of their research interests.

ROGER BARKER


The aim of this monograph is to summarise recent advances in clinical, epidemiological, radiological and pathological aspects of intracerebral haemorrhage, and to trace the history of concepts about its aetiology. Although this is a multi-author book, the great majority of it has been written by the two editors. In consequence it is much more cohesive than many other books of this type, and avoids repetition or undue bias towards ongoing research.

The volume is divided into four sections. The first deals with historical aspects of intracerebral haemorrhage, its epidemiology, symptomatology, pathology, and imaging. The second section is devoted to mechanisms, and includes chapters on hypertension, idiopathic disorders, vascular abnormalities, amyloid, drugs, trauma, tumours, and angiopathies. The last two sections describe the clinical features of haemorrhage at different sites, and an overview of treatment and prognosis. The discussion is confined to adults, and makes no mention of neonatal or paediatric intracerebral haemorrhage.

The section on clinical features will be of particular interest to physicians brought up in the CT scanning era, many of whom have never needed to develop the clinico-anatomical skills possessed by previous generations. A chapter which considers predictors of outcomes and makes account of patient subgroups who may benefit from surgical intervention will be especially useful for physicians uncertain of when to seek neurosurgical advice.

Kase and Caplan are to be congratulated for producing a monograph which is comprehensive, well written, and thought provoking. It is to be commended to physicians, neurologists, and neurosurgeons alike who are involved in the management of stroke patients.

ROBERT MACFARLANE