

bring together the contrasting methods used to give an insight into the different strategies used in the successes.

Events have rather overtaken this book. In particular one feels sympathy for the author of the chapter on Huntington's disease, who details meticulously the genetic work attempting to locate the Huntington's disease gene, only to finish the chapter with a footnote describing the cloning of the gene. The identification of triplet repeat expansions in the Huntington gene, which can now be identified by PCR assay without need for family studies, renders much of this chapter of historical rather than practical interest. It is unfortunate that this chapter couldn't have been more substantially modified in the light of this discovery. Michael Owen carefully reviews the molecular genetic advances in Alzheimer's disease. This chapter has also however been overtaken by recent events, particularly with respect to the importance of apolipoprotein E as a marker of genetic susceptibility. Another chapter provides a long discussion of the possible involvement of aluminium and other factors in the aetiology of Alzheimer's disease, which seems rather out of proportion to the importance that most workers in the field would attribute to these areas. Strangely, the chapter on the molecular biology of the transmissible dementias omits entirely the importance of the codon 129 polymorphism, with respect to genetic susceptibility to prion diseases in humans. This chapter again suffers from the rapid advances that have been made since writing, in particular with respect to the remarkable animal modelling of these diseases using transgenic animals; it is a shame that none of this could have been included. A chapter on the neurochemistry of schizophrenia reviews established neurochemical models and details some recent advances in this area; the problems of this sort of approach in deducing aetiological mechanisms are well reviewed.

Molecular genetics hold great hopes for teasing apart these undoubted multifactorial aetiology of both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and the various approaches to this are reviewed in two chapters. It is important for the clinical reader unfamiliar with the arguments to understand quite why these diseases have proved so difficult as targets for positional cloning and in particular why so many false positives have been seen; I was disappointed that this opportunity was not clearly grasped. One chapter indeed recommends the strategy of finding large pedigrees with "only one source of illness" but does not mention the problem that with a common disease, with probably several incompletely penetrant susceptibility genes, the more you extend the family the more likely it is that more than one disease gene will be segregating in the extended pedigree, confounding classical linkage studies.

In conclusion, while this book deals with a subject of immense importance to practising neurologists and psychiatrists, I hesitate in recommending it to a clinical readership. Those seeking an introduction to the methods involved in a molecular approach to neuropsychiatric disease are better served elsewhere; those seeking a review of the state of the field will I think find an unbalanced and, although this is largely inevitable, somewhat out of date coverage.

JOHN COLLINGE

Bailliere's Clinical Neurology. Genetics In Neurology. Guest Editor A E HARDING. (Pp 452 £27.50.) Published by Bailliere Tindall, London 1994. ISBN 0-7020-1853-8.

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

Intracerebral Hemorrhage. By CARLOS S KASE and LOUIS R CAPLAN. (Pp 516 £105.00.) Published by Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford 1994. ISBN 0-7506-9308-8.

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, bleeding 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 outcome and a balanced 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

NOTICE

Readers may be interested in

The Brainstorms Companion. Epilepsy in our view. By STEVEN C SCHACHTER. (Pp 156 \$30.50.) Published by Raven Press, New York 1994. ISBN 0-7817-02305.

A Guide to Understanding and Living with Epilepsy. By ORRIN DEVINSKY. (Pp 345 £14.50.) Waverly Europe, London 1994. ISBN 0-8036-2556-1.

Brain Chemistry and the French Connection. By DONALD B TOWER. (Pp 330 \$87.00.) Published by Raven Press, New York 1994. ISBN 0-7817-0216-X.

Ottorino Rossi Award Conference. International Workshop on Eye Movements. Edited by MAURIZIO VERSINO and DANIELA ZAMBARBIERI. (Pp 337). Published by Fondazione Institute of Neurology, Pavia 1994.

Treating the Headache Patient. Edited by ROGER K CADY and ANTHONY W FOX. (Pp 366 \$125.00.) Published by Marcel Dekker Inc, 1994. ISBN 0-8247-9109-6.

Brain Control of Responses to Trauma. Edited by NANCY J ROTHWELL and FRANK BERKENBOSCH. (Pp 342 £50.00 H/b). Published by Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1994. ISBN 0-521-41939-5.

The Faces of Violence. By GEORGE B PALMERO. (Pp 280 \$68.95.) Published by Charles C Thomas, Illinois 1994. ISBN 0-398-05934-9.

Key Topics in Brain Research. New Trends in the Diagnosis and Therapy of Alzheimer's Disease. Edited by K A JELLINGER, G LADURNER and M WINDISCH. (Pp 146). Published by Springer-Verlag, New York 1994. ISBN 3-211-82620-3.