systems rather than to people, making possible a section headed “Can a general theory of neurological rehabilitation be advanced?” Surely not. Rehabilitation should not be equated with restorative neurology. Scientific enthusiasm can be misdirected, as it is in a chapter on the evaluation of rehabilitation: “Our laughter”, we read, “when we hear of fever being treated by violemia or peptic ulcer by milky diets should be tempered by the realization that only the randomized controlled trial stands between us and similar acts of credulity”. Really? The examples are wide of the mark, and so a review of research methodologies in rehabilitation.

The stuff of rehabilitation—what actually happens between people—is difficult to describe and is not easy to discern in either book. One physiotherapist active in research may wonder if they are well served by being excused of all responsibility for scientific evaluation of their techniques. These books are both useful in rather different ways but some readers will find them indigestible unless taken with a milky diet.

**CHRISTOPHER WARD**


**Neurosurgical Emergencies** comprises two volumes and is one of the Neurosurgical Topics series published by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. It gives a comprehensive and up to date overview of the management of acute neurosurgical conditions.

The common neurosurgical emergencies such as haemorrhage and acute hydrocephalus are all covered as well as rarer topics such as pituitary apoplexy. There is not a specific chapter on closed head injury which I think would have been useful but instead the various aspects—for example, intracranial pressure monitoring, haematomas and cerebral herniation—are covered in separate sections. The chapters on hydrocephalus and shunt malfunction contain useful practical techniques. I thought that some of the algorithms are unnecessarily complex but those relating to the management of spinal injury are helpful.

The book is well indexed and the references are comprehensive even if not always up to date. It also contains a multiple choice self test.

On the downside, it is not clear why two volumes are necessary as each volume is relatively slim. Although summaries are present in most of the chapters they are not universal and I think numbered key points would be a useful addition. There is also discrepancy in chapter length. For example, more pages are devoted to the rare, albeit interesting, topic of acute bony decompression of the optic and facial nerves than to that most fundamental of neurological emergencies, subarachnoid haemorrhage. More specifically, several sections of the text discuss pre-CT burr holes which rarely have a place in modern neurosurgical management. The chapter on emergency surgery for stroke uses the phrase prophylaxis of stroke and its inclusion in this book is surprising.

Overall, I think these volumes are a useful guide to the management of neurosurgical emergencies and I would strongly recommend them to neurosurgical trainees.

**PETER HUTCHINSON**


Progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) has only been recognised as a separate entity since the work of Steele, Richardson, and Olszewski in the 1960s. This book has been aimed at a clinical audience, and its title would indicate a comprehensive coverage of the major aspects of the disease. The book follows a convention held in Barcelona in 1992, thus many of the contributions are the proceedings of that meeting and tend to reflect research interests rather than clinical data. It is a useful distillation of the most recent work in this disease.

Those with some familiarity with the literature on PSP will no doubt recognise many of the contributors, and their chapters. The chapter-heading on the search response was previously published in *Brain* in 1992, and a number of other chapters have been duplicated from Livant and Aigid’s book on PSP published in the same year. In addition, it is apparent from some of the research produced that correlation between clinical or investigative findings and pathological confirmation of the disease has not been achieved. The chapter dealing with vascular progressive supranuclear palsy suffers particularly in this regard. The chapters dealing with pathology and epidemiology are very strong. Although the book purports to address therapy, this section only warrants 16 pages, and concerns two small clinical trials of muscarinic and 5-ADREnergic agents. Other agents are not fully discussed. A more serious omission is the lack of any mention of drug therapies such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and the frequent co-occurrence of depressive symptoms. In contrast, although its relevance to practising clinical neurologists is somewhat understated, this section relating to the levels of various neurotransmitters in brain and cerebrospinal fluid is a tour de force. A few of the contributions are peppered with frequent typographical and grammatical errors which interfere with the reading of what are otherwise learned descriptions of important work.

Lastly, this book lacks a succinct summary of all the work by the various authors which is unfortunate given the numerous areas of expertise attributable to each.

**THOMAS ESMONDE**


In the last few years headache has become big business, though the British neurological establishment, unlike its pharmaceutical industry, has perhaps been slow to recognize this. The size of the clinical problem, and thus the market for new drugs has diminished adversely comprehensive, both in the US, epidemiology, Headache, have now been published as a book.

The book is an attempt to consolidate available knowledge both of the validity of the 1988 International Headache Society (IHS) classification and of the prevalence and debilitating effects of headache syndromes in the general population.

Recent studies of the prevalence of migraine using IHS criteria, in populations of different ages and in different places are reviewed extensively, and some also include cluster headache and tension-type headache. So called secondary headaches (for example, those associated with fevers, head injuries, stroke, and neck or sinus disease), where there are etiological clues to justify the subdivisions are also discussed.

The contributors acknowledge, but do not seem to come to terms with, the central problem of diagnosis in a disease with many etiological markers or even as yet any serious therapeutic studies to establish the true validity of any of their categories in a practical clinical context. While it is flattering to read the opinion of a senior neurologist treated as a gold standard it has to be admitted that those of us who profess considerable experience have always used some form of diagnostic criteria in everyday practice.

By the year 2040 mortality from neurodegenerative disease in the USA may well displace cancer as the second leading cause of death. Physicians will need to face this challenge and to graft the holistic approach of geriatric medicine on to the scientific basis of modern neurology. This is an important book that begins to define geriatric neurology to complement similar developments in neuropsychology. The clinical expression of neurological disease in the elderly reflects not only changes related to aging, but also, and much more importantly, the impact of earlier disease events and additional current pathologies, as has now been demonstrated so elegantly by recent clinico-pathological studies in Parkinson’s disease. The main strength of this book lies in its first three sections on aging in the nervous system, clinical examination and diagnostic studies, and mental status. There are also excellent accounts of the special senses and aging, gait disturbances and seizures. Standard text book accounts of neurological conditions have generally been avoided, though this is always easier for some topics than others. The book is well referenced up to 1992. On the whole though, this is not a text about treatment or management. Readers would find little new in its recommendations (which reflect North American practice), and some surprising omissions, such as the role of serotonin reuptake inhibitors in the treatment of depression in the elderly. Neurological rehabilitation is not addressed. However, this second edition, giving an expanded account of the neurobiology of aging in relation to geriatric neurology, still makes a valuable addition to the best standard textbooks of both neurology and geriatrics. It should be read by all physicians and researchers interested in neurological disease in the elderly.

R J MEARA


This book is an attractive collection of articles discussing various toxin induced models of the common neurological conditions of Parkinson’s disease, Huntington’s chorea and Alzheimer’s disease. The advantages and disadvantages of this approach are explicitly discussed in the early chapters, although the discussion is not extended to a comparison with other techniques of modeling such as transgenic studies. This discussion successfully bridges the gap that exists between scientifically derived models and unique clinically recognised disease states, whilst making the point that the modelling variable is the known pathology rather than the aetiological process.

The book can best be summarised by referring to the four major diseases it discusses. The chapter devoted to motor neurone disease is an extensive account of the clinical features and animal models of this condition. Although it reads more like a catalogue than a discussion, it is very topical and includes recent work on the Cu/Zn SOD expression in familial Alzheimer’s Disease.

In contrast the chapter on Huntington’s chorea is adequate if a little dated. For example no reference is made to the recent identification of the gene defect in Huntington’s chorea, the use of the mitochondrial toxin 3-nitro propionic acid or the differential effects of striatal grafts prepared from the lateral and medial eminence of the embryonic striatal primordium.

Parkinson’s disease is represented by a selection of papers that not only discuss the well established models using 6-OHDA and MPTP but newer models, although no explicit comparison of the merits of these different models are discussed. This has perhaps been most graphically illustrated recently with reference to the mechanism of action of different grafts of non-neural tissue (eg adrenal medulla).

The final chapters of the book are concerned with Alzheimer’s disease, and represent the weakest section of the book. No overview is offered, unlike the other diseases. Furthermore all the models have fundamental problems not least of which is to what extent the cholinergic denervation of the cortex is important in the expression of the clinical features of Alzheimer’s disease. This is especially pertinent as the advent of more refined models of cholinergic lesions highlight the disparity between cholinergic deficits at the cortical level and its effect on memory.

However overall the book is an excellent summary of an often poorly discussed area of research. It is therefore recommended highly to anyone coming to the area of research for the first time but to clinicians at a loss to understand the rationale behind models that mimic the diseases with which they are familiar.

ROGER BARKER


The burgeoning development of behavioural neurology has led to an expansion from the dementias into other cerebral disorders. It has become well established that several movement disorders exhibit cognitive dysfunction characteristic of subcortical pathology. This text aims to offer a comprehensive account of the behavioural neurology of movement disorders.

The initial section addresses the relation between the basal ganglia and behaviour. Subsequent chapters focus on particular diseases. Parkinson’s disease is rightly given most space. There are discussions on cognition, mood, and personality changes, due to both the condition and its treatment. The section on Huntington’s disease addresses the associated cognitive and behavioural abnormalities, and the problems of presymptomatic testing in at-risk subjects. There are useful contributions on other aetiopathological syndromes: Wilson’s disease, tardive dyskinesia, dystonia and focal basal ganglia lesions. Psychogenic movement disorders are well covered, with a helpful discussion on psychiatric factors which predispose patients on neuroleptics to tardive dyskinesia. Tourette’s syndrome, although rare, is dealt with exhaustively. This is forgivable given the fascination of the disease, and the associated attention deficit disorder, sensory phenomena, and obsessive-compulsive disorders often seen in this condition.

The book achieves its aims flawlessly. Although the authors proclaim its benefits for all clinicians, the depth of coverage will swamp most readers; it is most appropriate for the neurologist with a special interest in movement disorders.

JOHN GREENE