

unemployment into a book on multiple sclerosis. The relevant material should have been incorporated into a chapter on the social consequences of schizophrenia which could take a broader view than what is happening on the streets of Chicago and London.

None of this can detract from the value and importance of this book which ought to be in the possession of every practising psychiatrist, who, increasingly, must know about neuropsychology, imaging, neurochemistry and other developments in this most devastating of disorders.

PAUL CALLOWAY

Supplementary Sensorimotor Area. (Advances in Neurology, Vol 70.) Edited by HANS O LUDERS. (Pp 536; price £92.00.) Published by Lippincott-Raven Publishers, Philadelphia 1995. ISBN 0-7817-0268-2.

This book in the Advances in Neurology series is devoted to the supplementary sensorimotor area (SSMA) and summarises a meeting between scientists, neurologists and neurosurgeons that was held in Ohio, Cleveland in 1994. This medial frontal area consists of a number of different cortical regions extending from the primary sensory cortex to the prefrontal and cingulate cortices. The exact number and the defining criteria for each of these different areas is still debated, as is found in other systems such as the extrastriate cortical areas. Two areas of the SSMA have distinctive connections, intrinsic organisation and functional roles and this forms much of the basis of the opening chapters in this book. In particular the relationship of the SMA to the primary motor cortex and other premotor areas and its role in the initiation and execution of motor commands. This opening section of nine chapters concludes with the chapter by Passingham in which he critically evaluates the various theories on the role of the SSMA and summarises the currently available information into a coherent model of frontal lobe movement control.

The next section of the book then addresses the techniques that have been applied to human subjects to study the SSMA, the most common scenario being in the surgical evaluation of patients with seizures emanating from this cortical site. The classic features of SSMA epilepsy are a tendency for the attacks to occur from sleep with asymmetric tonic posturing of the limbs, abduction and elevation of the contralateral arm and speech arrest with preserved consciousness; a clinical phenotype that is discussed at length in the rest of this book, especially with respect to psychogenic seizures. This clinical counterpart (SSMA seizure) of the experimental stimulation study has proved to be a powerful bridge linking the sciences of experimental studies to the observations of clinicians, which serves to remind us all of the investigative strength of this combined approach. A point especially emphasised in this volume where scientists and clinicians rather than being antagonistic, enjoy a partnership with the free exchange of data and ideas.

After the discussion on the definition and investigation of patients with SSMA epilepsy, there are a number of accounts on the surgical treatment of such patients. The studies are often small, with between five and 28 patients, but nevertheless are under-

taken carefully with relatively well defined end-points; an advantage when compared to other surgical treatments in other neurological conditions, such as pallidotomy or transplantation in Parkinson's disease.

The book concludes with two excellent summary chapters based on workshops designed to define the functions and anatomical boundaries of the SSMA. In many ways this brings the book full circle to where it began, as these topics are discussed in the opening overview chapters by Luders and Freund. Indeed the selective reading of these four chapters would be sufficient to give most readers all the information they require in an accessible and enjoyable way.

This book is therefore to be highly recommended for a number of reasons. It discusses an interesting topic in an interesting and imaginative way, and in particular is a testament to the power of a combined clinical and scientific approach in understanding how a given area of the brain functions. It presents new data that not only influence our thinking on how the brain plans and executes movements, but also have clinical implications in the assessment and management of epileptic patients. If any criticism is to be levelled at this book, then it is one of repetition. This can be irritating, but is a small price to pay for what is otherwise an excellent neuroscientific work.

ROGER BARKER

Cerebrovascular Diseases. Edited by MICHAEL A MOSKOWITZ and LOUIS R CAPLAN. (Pp 552; price £110.00.) Published by Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford 1995. ISBN 0-7506-9603-6.

This book reports the proceedings of the Nineteenth Princeton Stroke Conference held in March 1994. The main focus of the conference was the exciting advances in molecular biology and their potential impact on clinical practice. The structure is of short chapters based on the presentations as well as the often intriguing discussions. As an introduction or update for clinicians on specific areas of basic science research it is a useful volume and is well referenced. The clinical relevance of some of these areas is emerging and, as such, clinicians need to "keep in touch". This book would therefore be a useful addition to medical libraries. Of particular importance are the approaches to neuroprotection, the "therapeutic time window", and advances in functional imaging. As one would expect, the chapters on "Emerging Stroke Therapies", such as the place of thrombolysis, have dated quickly with the results of a number of major trials becoming available.

I found the book format rather formal, and it is interesting to compare it with the abbreviated proceedings of the previous Princeton Conference which, for a number of reasons, were published as a supplement to the journal "Stroke". This was possibly more appropriate and certainly more accessible.

As a clinical neurologist working in stroke medicine I was left considering the continuing importance of collaboration between basic scientists and clinicians. This was summed up by one of the editors who, in response to a comment by a speaker, postulated "the rather bizarre idea that it might help in thinking about taking care of stroke if you actually ever saw a stroke patient".

CHARLES SHERRINGTON

History of Hungarian Neuropathology. Edited by LORANT LEEL-OSSY. Distributed by Literatura Medica, Budapest 1995. ISBN 963-6500-118.

The history of Neuropathology is inseparably interlinked with the evolution of medicine, particularly that part of our knowledge which we today call neuroscience. The reason for this is obvious: most neuropathologists of yesteryear were not, in fact, practising neuropathologists, not even histopathologists, but clinicians, often neurologists and psychiatrists, and quite frequently anatomists or other scientists. It is enough to glance at the long list of eponymous diseases of the nervous system to reveal an illustrious list of clinical practitioners and a relative dearth of full-time morphologists; indeed neuropathology, as a branch of histopathology, has not been defined until relatively recently. This is particularly true of Hungarian neuropathology which has made significant contributions to our existing body of knowledge. Whilst some of the eminent figures of Hungarian neuropathology, like Baló and Környei, are widely known, many other distinguished neuroscientists are not.

It is to the credit of Lóránt Leel-Össey, himself a prominent neuropathologist, that this gap in the history of neuropathology has now been filled. He has written a concise, but informative book which lists the achievements of Hungarian neuropathology. This is a delightful catalogue of all those who significantly enhanced our understanding of the normal and diseased nervous system, starting with József Lenhossék who was born in 1818 and concluding with János Szentágothai who died in 1994. Each neuroscientist is presented in a couple of pages only, yet most vital information is there, including a list of main publications at the end. In the closing decade of this century and of the second millennium when countries of central and eastern Europe are likely to join the European Union, this is a particularly timely publication to learn about our lesser known and previously remote heritage of neuroscience.

PETER LANTOS

Idiopathic Generalized Epilepsies. Edited by A MALAFOSSE *et al.* (Pp 538; £45.00.) Published by John Libbey and Co, London 1994. ISBN 0-86196-436-5.

There has been much recent interest in the idiopathic generalised epilepsies from the clinical, experimental and genetic perspectives. These developments have been driven by clinical, technological and basic science advances which are now providing important insights into these epilepsies.

This book represents the conclusion of work undertaken at a meeting in Strasbourg in April 1993 and is organised into seven parts and a total of 43 chapters. Typical chapter lengths are of the order of 10 pages or so. In the main they do not represent broad overviews of the subject, but have a natural bias towards the individual research interest. This is in keeping I presume with the goal of the book which is to address issues more at the cutting edge of discussion rather than being a broad reference work. The quality of reproduction is excellent with clear concise figures and tables and well reproduced EEGs.