Anatomical Dissections for Use in Neurosurgery, Vol. 1
by W. Seeger, in Collaboration with H. R. Eggert
1987. IX, 313 pages, 150 figures
Cloth öS 1600,—, DM 228,—
ISBN 3-211-81998-3
Springer-Verlag, Wien—New York

In the last few years the author has presented a series of volumes dealing with microsurgery in the region of the brain and spinal cord as well as, rather extensively, with topographical anatomy. The present volume has the same format and presentation and thus complements the series well.

Since many microsurgical techniques are conceived, tested, and practiced on preparations of autopsy material, expertise in the surgically oriented dissection of the brain is of special importance for the neurosurgeon.

After introductory chapters on the techniques of anatomical dissection of the brain, special structures are described and discussed. The descriptive texts on the individual steps in dissection are short, but adequate. The ample illustrations, which were all drawn by the author, are stuffed with information, and, because of this, sometimes difficult to interpret. However, once the reader has gotten used to the author's rather unusual illustrative techniques, he can profit from many interesting details.

This volume can be recommended to neurosurgeons without reservations. It can also help the interested beginner in our field with practice exercises before actual surgery. Finally, it should prove useful as a basis for interdisciplinary discussion between neuropathologists and neurosurgeons.

Like the other books in this series, this book uses only black and white illustrations so that the price could be kept low.

Giant Intracranial Aneurysms
Therapeutic Approaches
by Y. Keravel and M. Sindou
With contributions by 15 authors
Preface by M. G. Yasargil
Translated from the French by S. Rao
1988. 163 pages, 123 figures, XII
hard cover DM 248,—
ISBN 3-540-18131-8
Springer Verlag, Berlin—Heidelberg—New York—London—Paris—Tokyo—Hong Kong
Orig. French edition by Masson, Paris 1984

This volume is a welcome contribution since it allows the German reader to acquaint himself with the French literature. Although the original French edition was published in 1984, newer results have been included in the English edition. The book contains concise descriptions of neurosurgical aspects and procedures as well as contributions on the pathology, clinic, and neuroradiology of giant intracranial aneurysms. Happily, it also contains a description of intravascular procedures. The book gains actuality through the contributions of 15 co-authors. The article on neuroradiological results contains rather good NMR images.

The section on operative techniques lists the various possibilities to occlude giant aneurysms. It soon becomes clear that most difficulties occur in aneurysms with wide bases. If we consider the fact that the occurrence of giant aneurysms is actually rather small in relation to the total number of neurosurgical patients, then the complexity and cost of the surgical procedures and the number of procedures which must be adapted to the individual case is impressive. A discussion of the individual contributions is not possible in this review; they are all, however, informative and together they cover the entire spectrum of therapeutic surgical procedures. The contribution on intravascular techniques is outstanding also because of its critical standpoint.
This volume belongs on the bookshelves of every neurosurgeon. Furthermore, it offers valuable information to neuroradiologists and neurologists. The price is, considering the quality of the book, nearly justified.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Basis for Interpretation
by R. Sigal, D. Doyon, P. Halimi, and H. Atlan
Translated from the French by S. Assenat and R. Sigal
1988. 102 pages, 122 figures, X
hard cover DM 64,—
ISBN 3-540-18424-4
Springer Verlag, Berlin—Heidelberg—New York—London—Paris—Tokyo—Hong Kong

This thin volume shows how a method and its clinical application can be illustrated clearly, simply and, in spite of this, in depth. The volume is, from a didactic point of view, excellently structured. It begins with a description of the methods and the various parameters and later gives the possible diagnostic interpretations of MRI images. That a large majority of images show structures of the brain and spinal cord is rather an advantage for the readers of this journal. There are, however, also applications in the thoracic and abdominal region.

For the physician who wishes to learn the techniques of diagnosis with the use of MRI there are excellent exercises which stimulate the reader to active learning. The bibliography is short, but contains references to recent articles on each aspect, so that it gives the interested reader a review of the literature currently available.

The volume can be recommended to the radiologist. Even more, its didactic qualities should make it of interest to physicians in other fields who often use MRI for diagnosis, including the neurosurgeon and the neurologist. The book is well designed and printed, and the quality of the reproductions is good, with a few exceptions. Considering the costly production of the book, the price is low.

Atlas of Brain Tumors

Light- and Electron-Microscopic Features
by K. Tabuchi and A. Nishimoto
1988. 247 pages, 258 figures, XVI
hard cover DM 320,—
ISBN 3-540-70024-2
Springer Verlag, Tokyo—Berlin—Heidelberg—New York—London—Paris—Hong Kong

The two authors have presented a contribution to the morphology of intracranial tumors which gives a balanced mixture of excellent illustrations and concise texts. These texts are mainly in the form of captions to figures. The book describes tumors which arise histogenetically from central nervous tissues, as well as tumors from other origins such as neurofibromas, pituitary adenomas, meningomas, and melanomas, craniopharyngiomas, choromomas, and malignant lymphomas. A short chapter on metastatic tumors is also included.

The descriptions of typical tumor structures is based on images taken under the light microscope which are usually reproduced in color. There are also many very informative images from the electron microscope. A bibliography which is relatively short, but contains the most important contemporary articles, is included. The atlas assumes that the reader has a basic knowledge of neuropathology. Still it will be a useful reference even for the experienced neuropathologist in the routine practice of histological classification. The inclusion of primitive neuroectodermal tumors (PNET) should be especially helpful.

The book was, of course, primarily intended for the neuropathologist — for whom it can certainly serve as a valuable reference in his daily routine. It could also prove valuable to the neurosurgeon and neurologist working on morphological aspects for the classification of tumors. Although the 1979 WHO classification of brain tumors is mentioned in the foreword, the text contains no illustrations of this classification. Furthermore, the text, which is almost exclusively in the form of captions to the numerous illustrations, is too limited to adequately cover many problems. It is limited to, and this is not necessarily a disadvantage, descriptions of morphological phenomena. There is no discussion of the specifics of tumor grading, the biology of brain neoplasms, or clinical aspects.
Generally, we can say that this book fulfills the promise made in the foreword by Eliot Rubinstein: "This Atlas will therefore prove to be a reliable source of reference for the pathologist confronted with these diagnostic problems as well as a most useful aid in the day-to-day practice of neuropathology."

The book is nicely printed and bound and the reproduction of color illustrations is excellent so that the price seems justified.