different managements and problems with paediatric patients. I think the book has a useful role in the library of any accident department that receives paediatric patients.

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The 1988 Year Book of Neurology and Neurosurgery

Edited by RUSSELL N. DE JONG, ROBERT D. CURRIES & ROBERT M. CROUELL
Year Book Medical Publishers Inc., Chicago, 1988. 466 pp. £35.00.

The Year Book Series is well known to all medical practitioners and 1988 sees the publication of digests in 35 different specialties. Volumes on neurological disease have appeared since 1902, with the continuing aim of gathering and reviewing articles on topics of contemporary interest and controversy over the previous 12 months.

The neurosurgical, and larger, part of this book is the work of one editor who succeeds in the challenging task of presenting a panoramic view across the whole subject. The personal flavour to the selection explains why some articles are included and others omitted, but the overall balance is sound and useful.

The section on trauma is rather disappointing with little new to report. We are reminded again that severe and diffuse axonal injury can occur without any rise in intracranial pressure, and that about 3% of patients with a head injury initially assessed as minor (CGS 13–15) develop complications requiring neurosurgical intervention. The place of skull X-rays after head injury continues to be debated. Computerized tomography is the imaging technique of choice in acute head trauma while magnetic resonance may be more informative in subacute and chronic injuries. No significant developments are reported on the medical or surgical management of head or spinal injury.

The commentaries contain the occasional error of fact, and there are some irritating printing errors; 'neural' for 'mural' and 'annual aneurysms' should not have passed the proof room! But these are small criticisms and as a whole, this book is stimulating and readable. As a review it encourages us to look again at topics previously rather neglected, and further reading is the natural sequel.

This Year Book should find its place in the library of every neuroscience unit and many postgraduate centres. For the specialist in accident and emergency medicine, it is perhaps of passing interest.

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