

SURGERY FOR STROKE

Surgery for Cerebrovascular Insufficiency (Stroke). With special emphasis on carotid endarterectomy. By J. E. Thompson, B.A., M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. viii + 96. Illustrated. \$9.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

This monograph documents the author's experience of more than 400 carotid endarterectomies for frank strokes, transient ischaemic attacks, chronic cerebral ischaemia and asymptomatic carotid bruits. His results parallel Rob's claim that carotid endarterectomy offers the patient who suffers transient ischaemic attacks an opportunity to return to normal cerebral function without the mental perturbation that another episode of deficit is about to occur. The author also makes a strong case for operation upon the patient who presents with an asymptomatic carotid bruit.

The author's surgical attitude and the figures he produces must be balanced against the success achieved in the treatment of transient ischaemic attacks by the use of anticoagulants. The state of mind and health of the patient often determine whether surgical or medical means shall be used; certainly there is little case for an attitude of *laissez-faire*.

The physician, neurologist or general practitioner will find this brief monograph easy reading and may find themselves swayed to press more vigorously than heretofore the need for surgical arterial decoking upon their patients. The vascular surgeon needs no persuading!

C.F.

TUMOURS OF THE GALLBLADDER

Tumors of the Gallbladder and Extrahepatic Bile Ducts. Atlas of Tumor Pathology, Section VII—Fascicle 26. By H. A. Edmondson, M.D. Pp. 167. Illustrated. \$3.35. Washington, DC: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1968.

This fascicle, as the author aptly describes it, is another valuable publication from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Tumours of the gallbladder and extrahepatic bile ducts are admittedly rare, and the average histologist is unlikely to encounter many. So much more valuable, therefore, is this very well-illustrated and documented fascicle, compiled as it is from a vast collection of surgical and autopsy material.

A very useful inexpensive reference volume for any medical library and a most welcome addition to the reference library of the practising histologist.

D.M.