ways in the Alzheimer type of dementia is highlighted from several different methodological approaches. Therapeutic applications have as yet shown disappointingly little promise, but for clinicians a small challenge is offered in the little group of papers on normal pressure hydrocephalus.

One envisages that this book will serve as a very useful source and stimulus to those with research interest in this field. For the clinician I would certainly recommend a browse through the introductory and concluding chapters and the helpful summaries at the end of most individual chapters. From these he might be tempted to dip further where his interest was aroused. Libraries in centres concerned with training physicians in geriatrics and psychogeriatrics should certainly be stocking many of the volumes of this series.

COLIN GODBER

The Aging Heart, Its Function and Response to Stress (Aging Vol. 12)
Edited by Myron L. Weisfeldt

Ischaemic heart disease, the major cause of death in the Western world, now accounts for one third of the total deaths in England and Wales and two thirds of these occur in those aged over 65 years. There is a similar high morbidity from this condition, and its age-associated cardiovascular problems affect all patients who attend Departments of Geriatric Medicine. In such a setting this is an important book, not only because it is subtitled 'Its Function and Response to Stress', but also because it concentrates on the changes occurring between maturation and senescence. The structural, metabolic, and functional differences which separate ageing from disease are reviewed in a thought-provoking way, and well documented references echo the bibliographical expertise of Nathan W. Shock, to whom the book is dedicated. Sometimes, as here, the book reviewer has the unenviable task of placing in perspective the contribution a work offers to current medical thought, particularly when the full potential of a subject has not been explored. This volume would have benefited considerably from a chapter on clinical implications, since without it we can only repeat the phrase that Shock himself used as recently as 1963, 'He who knoweth not what he seeketh, understandeth not what he findeth'.

B. LIVESLEY

Disorders of Movement
(Current Status of Modern Therapy Series—Vol. 8)
Edited by Andre Barbeau

The geriatric physician is very much concerned with elderly patients who have difficulty in movement. These include patients with clear-cut clinical syndromes, such as Parkinson's disease and tardive dyskinesia, who are the focus of great medical interest and some therapeutic bewilderment. There are also familiar but less well defined conditions, bearing labels like 'senile tremor', or 'senile chorea', but there is little understanding of their pathogenesis and their management. Other patients in our wards and clinics writhe, twist, twitch, jump or slump in a variety of patterns, and doubtless for a variety of good reasons, but without great benefit of medical concern. Clinicians who are unhappy about their understanding and management of these disorders of movement will find comfort and aid in Professor Barbeau's book. This deals, in successive chapters with chorea, athetosis, torsion dystonia, myoclonus, tics, tremors and tardive dyskinesia, and with Parkinson's and Wilksion's diseases. Each chapter contains a brief historical review (Barbeau's own opening chapter is a beautiful account of the history of these disorders and the elucidation of their mechanisms), a short clinical description and some therapeutic bewilderment. There is little understanding of their pathogenesis and their management. Other patients in our wards and clinics writhe, twist, twitch, jump or slump in a variety of patterns, and doubtless for a variety of good reasons, but without great benefit of medical concern. Clinicians who are unhappy about their understanding and management of these disorders of movement will find comfort and aid in Professor Barbeau's book. This deals, in successive chapters with chorea, athetosis, torsion dystonia, myoclonus, tics, tremors and tardive dyskinesia, and with Parkinson's and Wilksion's diseases. Each chapter contains a brief historical review (Barbeau's own opening chapter is a beautiful account of the history of these disorders and the elucidation of their mechanisms), a short clinical description and an incursion into pathophysiology with special emphasis on disorders of neurotransmission. The bulk of each chapter is devoted to the clinical pharmacology of drugs used in the management of the diseases. These are comprehensively listed, their mechanisms are explained and the published evidence of their effectiveness is critically presented. Clear recommendations are offered on the choice of therapy and on undesired effects. The contributors, all of whom are workers of great distinction in their field, are from the US and Canada, with one British contribution—the chapter on torsion dystonia by Professor Marsden. The editing is superb: there is such a degree of conformity in