a world authority in this field and his extensive publications span many decades. As might be expected from this combination of authors, this book provides an authoritative account of the subject. Over a third of the book is devoted to historical and basic concepts of the blood-brain barrier including transport kinetics and carrier-mediated processes. This section (as is the rest of the book) is extensively illustrated with diagrams, mathematical detail and graphs and is organized in a logical sequence. Subsequent chapters are devoted to transport of glucose, amino acids, peptides and proteins as well as nucleotides and vitamins across the blood-brain barrier. Finally, a short account is given of experimental models in the study of pathology of the blood-brain barrier which may prove to be relevant to human disease.

This book is certainly essential reading for anyone interested in the blood-brain barrier. It is comprehensive, well organized, well illustrated and thoroughly referenced. This is not a book for beginners and I think that some of the technical aspects, especially the mathematical details, may be hard going for those unfamiliar with the subject. Nevertheless, the book certainly contains a wealth of interesting and up-to-date information. The authors state in the introduction that, if the book succeeds in stimulating research on the pathology of some central nervous system diseases, then it would have achieved its main purpose. I have little doubt that this aim will be realized. This book will certainly be an extremely useful addition to neurological and neuroscience libraries.

P. Kennedy
*Department of Neurology,
Southern General Hospital,
1345 Govan Road,
Glasgow G51 4TE.*

Hand Rehabilitation – A Practical Guide, edited by G.L. Clark, E.F. Shaw Wilgis, B. Aiello, D. Eckhaus and L. Valdata Eddington. Pp. xvii + 341, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Tokyo, 1993. Paperback, £44.00.

This exhaustive book on hand rehabilitation has a multidisciplinary authorship and comes from the Union Memorial Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland. It covers every aspect of hand rehabilitation, from burns, through nerve repair and desensitization, to tendon repair, skin grafts, amputation, arthroplasty, arthritis and fractures. It is intended as a practical guide so that each chapter is set out in note format under the same headings of: definition, surgical purpose, treatment goal, indications for therapy, therapy techniques, complications and evaluation timeline.

It is undoubtedly a book written by great experts for great experts, which must inevitably limit its use. Exhaustive coverage under each heading becomes repetitive as each author wades through, for example, each stage of pretreatment evaluation for every last complication. Long lists of therapy techniques, with little or no explanation, leave the interested but less well-informed reader bemused. The complete absence of critical discussion or guidance as to which of the many techniques are

felt to be most effective will disappoint the better informed reader hoping to gain insight into the experience of this internationally recognized hand centre.

The book does, though, provide some useful and clear illustrations. The checklists may provide a helpful starting point for more junior therapists approaching a problem for the first time, or for those revising for exams, and, in this respect, the list format may be more accessible than some of the large prose-style books on hand rehabilitation that have preceded it.

L. Turner-Stokes
*Director, Regional Rehabilitation Unit,
Northwick Park Hospital,
Watford Road,
Harrow,
Middlesex HA1 3UJ.*

Human Embryology, W.J. Larsen. Pp. 479, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, Edinburgh, New York, Tokyo, 1993. Paperback, £24.95.

Imagine finding a section on contraceptive techniques at the end of the first chapter of an embryology textbook. As this is a text designed to support a series of lectures to students as part of the gross anatomy course, perhaps the author wishes to help in their sex education. In fact the book is quite refreshing in its approach, having a 'clinical applications' and an 'experimental principles' section at the end of each formal chapter. In his preface he also talks of the burgeoning field of genetic counselling, and he is obviously fascinated by the field of clinical genetics and its overlap with his subject. Lecturing to people with young minds, he is probably very popular by adding juicy clinical titbits to what many might find a rather dry subject, even though we marvel at the timing and precision of organ formation and development.

The didactic sections are well illustrated and have useful highlight headings amongst the text. Sometimes the author overreaches himself in the clinical applications section, but it might take a clinician to realize this. His motive no doubt is to open the eyes of his students. Relatively new concepts such as imprinting and homeoboxes are dealt with quite well. Reference to Prader Willi and Angelman syndromes gives the wrong chromosome as involved in the imprinting process. Without a good deal of existing knowledge, many such references might be dense to the reader who would need to consult the useful reading lists for a more complete understanding.

I shall find the book quite useful. I looked up a few topics from the index such as homeoboxes, diaphragmatic hernia, omphalocele and found myself well satisfied with their handling in the text. The book is moderately priced and useful for personal library shelves as a general, up-to-date embryology and more, textbook.

M. Super
*Clinical Genetics Unit,
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital,
Hospital Road,
Manchester M27 1BA.*