Nerves from *The Remaining Medical Works of that Famous and Renowned Physician Dr. Thomas Willis*.

The whole production is well planned and attractive, and although to some extent an artefact it does succeed in giving the feel of the original edition. It should introduce a number of new readers to a fascinating era in the development of medical thought. It is to be hoped that all medical libraries will add it to their stock. The growing number of those already interested in Willis and his times will certainly wish to possess it.

C. W. M. WHITTY

DAS VEGETATIVE NERVENSYSTEM Vol. 3 Fundamental Research; Vol. 4. Clinical and Therapeutic Aspects of Autonomic Functional Disturbances. Edited by K. Hartmann-von Monakow (Vol. 3: Pp. x + 230, 65 figures. 48 Swi. F. Vol. 4: Pp. x + 268, 41 figures. 94 Swi. F.) S. Karger: Basel and New York. 1966.

The third volume of this series of topical problems in psychiatry and neurology contains a most useful review and discussion of the part played by the autonomic nervous system in the neuro-endocrine regulation of adaptive reactions by E. Bajusz, and the fourth volume a very good review by J. B. Belloni and H. Terzian on the autonomic nervous system and mental pathology; both of these reviews are in English. E. Hagen's anatomy of the vegetative nervous system is illustrated by beautiful photographs. H. Heyck's article in German on migraine and related headaches is most interesting to English readers. He argues that the essential disorder is an arterio-venous shunt, short-circuiting the capillaries, and that this causes the ischaemia of parts of the brain. The passing of high pressure on to small, thin-walled arterioles, which are not equipped to deal with it, he argues, is responsible for oedema. Ergotamine works by closing down the small blood vessels.

P. W. NATHAN

EVOLUTION OF THE FOREBRAIN: Phylogenesis and Ontogenesis of the Forebrain. Edited by R. Hassler and H. Stephan. (Pp. viii + 464; 295 figures. DM. 96.) Georg Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart. 1966.

Forty-two papers on the structure and development of the central nervous system delivered at a symposium in Frankfurt in 1965 are gathered together under this rather ambitious title. The papers range widely over the vertebrate kingdom from teleosts to man, using techniques from gross anatomy to electron microscopy.

The great majority of the papers inevitably deal with restricted fields in a single vertebrate, and have been published in brief form which tends, in some cases, to reduce their value to the general reader, while, in others, a number of views have had to be expressed without full discussion of the relevant evidence—a feature which makes it difficult to assess their true significance.

Most of the authors relate their findings to the general concept of evolution of the brain. It is inevitable on the one hand that such speculations arising from a series of separate studies on single animals cannot readily be synthesized into a general picture, more particularly

when little account is taken of the highly specialized functional attributes of each animal which must be mirrored in the structure of the nervous system. On the other hand, those papers which attempt to give a general survey suffer equally from paucity of detailed information. Thus the book remains a series of separate contributions, and fails to live up to its title despite the excellence of many of the papers.

It is almost inevitable that a general criticism of this nature is applicable to a publication of this kind, but this should not detract from the value of the individual contributions, many of which are thought provoking and fully repay careful study. It is difficult as well as invidious to highlight particular papers from among so many, but there are excellent sections on the limbic and visual systems, on the corpus striatum and thalamus, and on the formation and differentiation of nerve cells. Even if the evolutionary significance of the findings is problematical, there is much here to stimulate students of the forebrain to undertake further studies of more localized regions in a wide spectrum of vertebrates, and it is to be hoped that such studies will include more quantitative and physiological measurements.

G. J. ROMANES

NEUROLOGICAL DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES Proceedings of the 13th Annual Houston Neurological Scientific Symposium. Compiled and edited by W. S. Fields. (Pp. xii + 429; illustrated. \$16.00.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1966.

The date of this symposium is not mentioned anywhere in the volume. The investigations required in the neurological clinic extend to every corner of clinical investigation, so it may to some readers seem inappropriate to try to bring together those which are specially used by the neurologist. Thus chapters on virology and muscle biopsy do not seem to mix very well with radioisotopic scanning or psychological testing. However, all neurologists will find something helpful and stimulating somewhere in these chapters, particularly perhaps the chapter on computer applications to clinical problems.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

THE GENETICS OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS (Oxford monographs on medical genetics.) By R. T. C. Pratt. (Pp. vii + 310, 80s.) Oxford University Press: London. 1967.

An immense amount of work has gone into the preparation of this admirable volume, which gives an account of the genetic background to a large range of neurological disorders. The book assumes a basic knowledge of genetics and *An Introduction to Medical Genetics* by J. A. Fraser Roberts is recommended by the author for preliminary reading.

A sampling of selected subjects indicates that the subject matter is both accurate and up-to-date. The reference system is particularly notable. At the end of each section is a small list of selected references and at the end of the book is a bibliography comprising 2,814 references. Such an arrangement could well be used by

other authors where a large number of references must be given.

This book should certainly be in every medical library and can be enthusiastically recommended to workers in the field of hereditary disorders.

RICHARD L. HEWER

CEREBRAL VENOUS THROMBOSIS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PRIMARY ASEPTIC THROMBOSIS By R. M. Kalbag and A. L. Woolf. (Pp. xii + 280; illustrated. 126s.) Oxford University Press: London. 1967.

This book is built around clinical and pathological observations on 30 cases of intracranial venous thrombosis including neonatal, infantile, and adult cases. Since the series contains examples of most conditions causing or associated with such thromboses, the result is a reasonably comprehensive survey of the subject. There is no mention of oral contraceptives and cerebral thrombosis. There is a chapter on the embryology of the intracranial veins which is an abridged version of the paper by Padget (1957), and a useful chapter on the normal anatomy of the venous drainage of the human brain.

SABINA J. STRICH

THE MANAGEMENT OF HEAD INJURIES By W. Lewin. (Pp. 318; 113 figures. 60s.) Baillière, Tindall and Cassell: London. 1966.

This is an important addition to literature on the treatment of head injuries and may be recommended to every Accident Service. Every page is consolidated by the author's wide experience and his advice is thoughtfully and clearly presented. The over-dogmatic comment is refreshingly rare, but retrograde amnesia is not 'diagnostic of cerebral concussion' (p. 5) and injury to the optic chiasma is not usually associated with a fracture line crossing the region of the sella turcica (p. 140).

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

PRAKTISCHE LOKALANESTHESIE Ein Kompendium. By H. G. Auberger. (Pp. vi + 142; 133 figures. DM. 8.40.) Georg Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart. 1967.

This little pocket book is an excellent, straightforward, and well-illustrated guide to all varieties of local anaesthesia. Many will find it most useful.

CAROTID-CAVERNOUS FISTULA By W. B. Hamby. (Pp. ix + 139; 18 figures. \$7.50) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1966.

The author has based this small monograph on a personal series of 42 cases of carotid-cavernous fistula and an extensive acquaintance with the literature. He deals with the incidence and aetiology, favouring an aneurysmal origin in many cases, and gives an excellent account of the relevant anatomy. Chapters on the clinical picture, diagnosis, and investigations are all good. His account of treatment is also convincing, and he favours proximal and distal ligation of carotid vessels together with proximal muscle embolization. Many surgeons will

favour muscle packing from the distal end as being easier and more certain.

The methods he describes for ascertaining the safety of carotid occlusion are even now probably out-dated and will be replaced by more sophisticated techniques involving blood flow measurement and gas uptake in the brain.

These minor criticisms apart, the book is an excellent one and contains all that a neurosurgeon would want to know about this subject. It should certainly be on the shelves of every neurosurgeon and should be read by all those having to deal with trauma or cerebral vascular conditions.

BRODIE HUGHES

OTFRID FOERSTER: Arzt und Naturforscher (Doctor and Scientist 1873-1941). By Klaus Joachim Zulch. (Pp. viii + 116; illustrated. DM. 16.00.) Springer-Verlag: Berlin. 1966.

This book has been written to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Otfrid Foerster's death. In addition to the biographical data it gives extracts of some of the most important publications of the monumental work of this great pioneer in neurology and neurosurgery.

Foerster's concept of neurology was to establish a close relationship between morphology and physiology for the localization of function of various parts of the peripheral as well as central nervous system, and in this he was greatly influenced by Duchenne de Boulogne, Dejerine, and, in particular, Hughlings Jackson and Sherrington. His physiological approach to neurology was the decisive factor for his therapeutic actions whether they were concerned with physical medicine or surgical treatment of pain, spasticity, or epilepsy.

Foerster realized from early on the important influence of the afferent pathways on spasticity, which, in recent years, has been in the foreground of neuro-physiological research, and consequently he introduced the posterior rhizotomy (1908) for the treatment of spasticity in cerebral palsy. However, he always stressed that this operation could be successful only if it is followed by systematic exercises under visual guidance. He also employed this operation for the treatment of gastric crises in tabes dorsalis, and later, in 1912, independently of Spiller and Martin of the U.S.A., he introduced cordotomy for the surgical treatment of intractable pain. During the first world war he became neurological consultant to the German Sixth Army Corps and in this capacity he gained vast experience in the surgical and post-operative treatment of peripheral nerve injuries, an experience which, it is true to say, has not been surpassed by any publication on this subject ever since. After that war, Foerster's main work was concerned with the analysis and surgical treatment of focal epilepsy. The result of this work was a detailed localization of cortical functions in men similar to that found by O. Vogt and I. Brodmann in animals.

The Wensel Hancke Krankenhaus in Breslau became Mecca to many neurologists and neurophysiologists among them Wilder Penfield who became particularly interested in the localization problems of epilepsy. Foerster has summarized his monumental work in large