carotid sinus, and that the efferent pathway is not, or not solely, the cervical sympathetic nerves. The author may find that nervous control of the circulation in the brain is more widely accepted than he appears to expect, and it will be interesting to know whether his other views are confirmed as new methods for the study of brain flow become available.

J. SPALDING

**SPONGY DEGENERATION OF THE BRAIN IN INFANCY**


The recognition of this familial disease as a distinctive pathological entity dates from the paper given by van Bogaert and Bertrand at the Paris Neurological Congress in 1949. In retrospect, it is probable that Globus and Strauss (1928) and Canavan (1931) had given earlier descriptions of the condition, but it is certainly unjustifiable to retain the term 'Canavan's disease' in present-day classifications.

This monograph contains a full account of the clinical and pathological features of the 26 examples of this disease which have so far appeared in the literature and the authors' personal cases are set out in considerable detail. Pathologists will be grateful for van Bogaert's account of many other rare encephalopathies of early life which are to be considered in differential diagnosis and the book will be a valuable source of reference both to clinicians and neuropathologists.

R. M. NORMAN

**INTEGRATIVE ACTIVITY OF THE BRAIN**


Dr. Konorski's work on cerebral physiology is specially remembered for his interest in the time factors involved in the establishment of a memory trace. The student of memory mechanisms will, however, be disappointed by the pages devoted to this, for they contain only rather speculative explanations of the known facts. Thus on page 491 '...we shall hold the view that transient memory has a dynamic character depending on the activation of closed, self-reexciting chains of neurons, whereas the consolidation of memory is a quite separate and independent process whose intimate nature is still poorly understood'. The weakness of this volume is that the known facts of the problems discussed are not fully displayed to the reader, even in the realm of memory mechanisms. However, it provides a source of interesting theoretical interpretations which may provoke further useful experiment.

C. W. M. WHITTY

**THE GROSS ANATOMY OF THE HUMAN BRAIN. A Manual of Dissection**


This students' textbook deals solely with the gross anatomy and dissection of the human brain, and though it illustrates, without explanation, some of the features of the brain-stem which may be seen by the unaided eye in unstained transverse sections, it does not consider some important pathways—for example, medial and lateral lemnisci—which may be dissected with ease. The