Additional chapters are devoted to the metabolic aspects of adaptation to hyper- and hypocapnia and there is a final section on mathematical models for carbon dioxide regulation.

The book is well-produced, and amply illustrated, with clear line diagrams. The bibliography is not particularly extensive but includes references up to the time of the congress in 1971.

P. T. LASCELLES

BRAIN DYSFUNCTION IN METABOLIC DISORDERS. Research Publications. Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, vol. 53 By F. Plum. (Pp. 324; illustrated; \$25.00.) North-Holland: Amsterdam. 1974.

Toxic and metabolic disorders of the nervous system were first considered by the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease in 1952, and in this 53rd volume the subject is again taken up by Dr Plum and a distinguished group of participants.

The subject matter is grouped into five sections. The first includes four chapters on the neurological changes in liver disease. This is followed by a section on disorders of oxidative metabolism which includes studies on cerebral hypoxia and hypoglycaemia and on the metabolic effects of seizures. The third section includes chapters on the effects of osmotic stress on the brain and on uraemia. The last two sections relate to a variety of metabolic disorders with particular reference to behaviour and changes related to psychiatry. They include chapters on acute intermittent porphyria, lead encephalopathy, malnutrition and the developing brain, the blood brain barrier, and several reviews on metabolic aspects of psychiatric illness.

In a high level conference of this nature it is difficult to strike a balance between the separate aims of presenting new ideas and observations and giving a clear review of current information in an important field, and this is perhaps particularly difficult in a field where the emphasis is as much on basic biochemistry as on clinical medicine. On the whole, the contributors have succeeded well, and the result is a series of highly informative reviews which are often clarified by the discussion comments of the participants. The interest of each chapter must depend to a large extent on the clinical and scientific interests of the reader. The reviewer found the sections on hepatic disease, the metabolic effects of seizures, and on uraemia, of particular interest but others will find sections in their particular field of interest equally rewarding. The book fully matches the high standard set by its predecessors in the series.

J. A. R. LENMAN

THE SUPERFICIAL VEINS OF THE HUMAN BRAIN By H. M. Duvernoy. (Pp. 110; illustrated; \$35.90.) Springer: Berlin. 1975.

This is a beautifully illustrated, short, and expensive atlas of the veins of the brain stem and the base of the brain. But who will find this information of much practical value? Not, in my opinion, neuropathologists; and from discussions with various colleagues it seems unlikely that it would be of any particular value to neurosurgeons or neuroradiologists.

J. HUME ADAMS

ADOLESCENT DISTURBANCE AND BREAKDOWN By Moses Laufer. (Pp. 96; illustrated; 45p.) Penguin: Harmondsworth. 1975.

This book, *A Mind Special*, published by Penguin, is well-produced, inexpensive, and easily read. There are rather less than 70 pages to be read for it is copiously illustrated.

The author is a psychoanalyst. He has been associated with the Hampstead Child Therapy Clinic, which justifiably has an international reputation.

This book represents a responsible attempt to produce a detached but dynamic approach to the nature, cause, and meaning of adolescent disturbance and breakdown. As such, it makes an important contribution and it deserves to be widely read. The style is concise and authoritative. Due attention is paid to the fact that the boundaries between disturbance, illness, and breakdown in adolescence are more vague than in adult life. Danger signs are discussed in terms of nine criteria, which, when considered together, can give a comprehensive picture of the functioning or malfunctioning of the adolescent personality. The book ends with an excellent review of the type of help available to adolescents, and with three illustrative case histories.

This slim volume can be recommended to anyone with an interest in the field, and indeed to any adult who feels he is out of touch with adolescents, or who may have fallen victim to prejudiced attitudes.

A. M. SHENKIN

NOTICES

SIR GORDON HOLMES CENTENARY SYMPOSIUM 'Physiological aspects of clinical neurology', 1-4 March 1976, Charing Cross Hospital, London. Details from: Dr F. Clifford Rose, Organising Secretary, Department of Neurology, Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8RF.

9TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY AND CLINICAL NEUROPHYSIOLOGY 4-9 September 1977, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Details from Congress Secretary, Dr F. H. Lopes da Silva, Institute of Medical Physics TNO, Da Costakade 45, Utrecht, The Netherlands.