Book reviews

A PHYSIOLOGICAL APPROACH TO CLINICAL NEUROLOGY
2nd edn By J. W. Lance and J. G. McLeod. (Pp. 341; illustrated; £8.00.) Butterworths: London. 1975.

In this second edition J. W. Lance has been joined by J. G. McLeod as co-author and in addition to revision of existing chapters new material has been added on peripheral nerves, the neuromuscular system, spasticity, and the special senses. The strong clinical emphasis remains, so that the book continues to provide an account of the physiological processes associated with common neurological disorders, but the treatment is now more comprehensive.

For the most part the chapters are devoted to the analysis of a particular clinical problem such as pain, weakness, spasticity, or epilepsy, although others deal with disorders affecting particular anatomical systems such as the basal ganglia or cerebellum. Although the chapters are generally at a simple introductory level, a fair background knowledge of physiology is assumed and there are sufficient references to guide the reader who wishes to pursue a particular topic in greater depth. The sections on the control of movement are of interest because they reflect to some extent the particular interests of the authors. For this reason they are dealt with at a somewhat more advanced level than the rest of the book and much of this part of the book will be of interest to active workers in the field. The later sections deal with higher cortical functions and, as well as giving a clinical account of conditions such as coma, epilepsy, and dementia, they provide a useful summary of current concepts on speech, learning, memory, and emotion.

As an introductory book for students who have completed their physiology course and are about to embark on the study of patients, this book has much to recommend it. It should also prove useful to physicians about to enter the field of neurology or neurosurgery, and for physiologists it gives an interesting account of some of the clinical implications of their subject. The book is well produced with good illustrations. Easy to read even when the subject matter is difficult and complex, the book should appeal to a wide variety of readers.

J. A. R. LENMAN

DISEASES OF MUSCLE—A STUDY IN PATHOLOGY, 3rd edn By Raymond D. Adams. (Pp. 605; illustrated; \$35.00.) Harper and Row: New York. 1975.

This well-known textbook, formerly in collaboration

with Denny-Brown and Pearson, reappears in a third edition with Professor Adams as the sole author. Its orientation is on the pathology of muscle and in this respect it is the best book available. The advantage of a single author is seen in the systematic presentation and the critical survey of the literature from the point of view of a morbid anatomist with wide experience in general pathology as well as neuropathology. Thus, when the author draws attention to the possibility of artefacts in material presented by other writers, his opinion is based on unrivalled experience. He rightly draws attention to the possibility of misleading conclusions with biopsy material and to the surprising dearth of full postmortem studies in many neuromuscular disorders.

The core problem, the status of muscular dystrophy, is presented clearly. His bias is towards segmental necrosis of muscle fibres, repeated over a period of years, as the primary lesion, attributing it to a genetically determined metabolic fault that prevents the fibre from surviving under conditions of even moderate functional activity. He finds evidence of a neural or vascular factor in pathogenesis of muscular dystrophy to be inconsistent with observed facts.

Other well-known books give more information on clinical and histochemical aspects of muscular disease but for authoritative opinion on muscular pathology this book is undoubtedly supreme.

J. A. SIMPSON

ATLAS OF BRAIN ANATOMY FOR EMI SCANS By F. C. Shipps, J. T. Madeira, H. W. Huntington, and R. D. Wing. (Pp. 16; illustrated; price not stated.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1975.

Computerized tomography of the brain currently presents the results as horizontal sections, an unfamiliar view to neuroradiologists and those of their colleagues used to looking at encephalograms, angiograms, and radionuclide scans. This small loose-leaf atlas is aimed at assisting in orientation and contains nine illustrations, one showing the usual levels and angles of the scans while the others are photographs of brains cut at approximately the same levels. Six of these have transparent overlays indicating the names and positions of the main structures, and although only some of these structures are seen in the scans, it is true, as the authors say, that a study of the pictures will lead to a more precise anatomical location of lesions when describing or reporting findings. At the back of the booklet is a chart of EMI coefficients of absorption based on findings reported in the literature up to mid-1974.