Progress in Perinatal Neurology—Volume 1. Edited by Rowena Korobkin and Christian Guilleminault. (Pp 238; \$42.00.) Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins, 1981.

As Little, quoted in the preface to this book, pointed out in 1862, the act of birth occasionally "imprints upon the nervous and muscular systems of the nascent infantile organism very serious and peculiar evils". The "investigation of these evils, and their causative influences" by the technological methods available today largely form the subject of this volume (the first in a series which is a successor to *Advances in Perinatal Neurology*).

The nine chapters are written by contributors mainly from North America, with two from Australia and one from Denmark. The topics reviewed are intrapartum foetal monitoring, neonatal electroencephalography, auditory brain-stem potentials, computed tomography in the newborn, effects of viral infections on the developing nervous system, disorders of sucking and swallowing in the newborn, congenital hemiplegia, congenital central hypoventilation syndrome and follow-up of infants with perinatal hazards. The earlier chapters are likely to be of greatest interest to the paediatrician involved in the care of the newborn, while the later ones will concern those who see the slightly older child.

The chapter on computed tomography in the newborn by Fitz of The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto (co-author of an important book on paediatric neuroradiology) is an excellent review of a difficult subject in which all involved are still, to some extent, feeling their way. He discusses the difficulty in determining the norm for a newborn; the areas of low attenuation seen in the CT scan of the premature brain are, he believes, probably stages of normal development or, possibly, an extremely common abnormality in premature infants. A clear summary of the normal features of the CT scan at different stages of gestation from 24 weeks to term is accompanied by excellent illustrations.

A useful review by Seay and Griffin of the effects of viral infections on the developing nervous system considers the evidence from animals for the viral aetiology of porencephaly and hydranencephaly in lambs, cerebellar hypoplasia in mice, and hydrocephalus in hamsters, which may be relevant to human CNS malformations. In the newborn infant CNS abnormalities induced by viral infections very early in pregnancy may appear only as "develop-

mental" defects, and more sensitive virological and serological techniques are needed to detect virus or viral antigen in tissues from infants with congenital malformations.

The chapters on disorders of sucking and swallowing (by Hill and Volpe) stressing, *inter alia*, posterior fossa haemorrhage as a cause, and on the congenital central hypoventilation syndrome (by Guilleminault and Challamel) will be of great value to neonatologists.

Scandinavia has been the source of many valuable paediatric epidemiological studies, and the book closes with a report by Zachau-Christiansen on the Copenhagen Longitudinal Study. The usual neonatal neurological examination was found to be of some predictive value, though no particular items of special importance emerged. Social conditions were seen to be paramount, and the author concludes that obstetrics and neonatology need to be improved both biomedically and socially. The dangers of home deliveries, for which in today's Denmark well-to-do, well educated women fight, are stressed.

This is a book for paediatricians and paediatric neurologists rather than neurologists of the more mature individual; for those concerned in the care of the "nascent organism" it deserves a place on the working shelves.

EM BRETT

Guided Brain Operations. By Ernest A Spiegel. (Pp 246; US\$88.75, SFr 148.) Basel: S Karger AG, 1982.

With the late Henry Wycis, the author was a pioneer in human stereotactic surgery. He makes a comprehensive review of its development and clinical application up to the present time.

This work may be of interest to younger neurosurgeons, particularly in Britain and the United States, who may have had little experience of the techniques due to the advent of levodopa eighteen years ago, and the eclipse of "psycho-surgery". The various conditions for which stereotaxis is thought to be valuable include Parkinsonism, various movement disorders, mental and emotional disturbances, including aggression and sexual deviancy, chronic painful states, and other diverse conditions. Suggested sites for surgical lesions used in these conditions are given.

The lack of any critical analysis of the results of such procedures detracts from the value of the work, but may be a

reflection of the fact that Professor Spiegel is a neurophysiologist; therefore the section on the anatomy and the physiological processes of importance in planning a stereotactic lesion, is of interest. Dr Guilleminault has contributed a section on computed tomography and stereotactic surgery. This important new development will be of less value in the treatment of movement disorders where lesion-siting, for good results, depends on careful physiological monitoring, but has a promising future in the management of deep-seated tumours.

The real value of this short book is historical, with its thousand or so references, but even then it seems expensively priced.

JOHN ANDREW

Concept in Pediatric Neurosurgery, 3. Edited by A J Raimondi. (Pp 292; \$118.75.) Basel: S Karger, 1983.

The American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery continues to further one of its main functions which is (to quote from the Preface to this volume of papers), "the education of the neurosurgical community in the modern neurosurgical care of the child".

Here are chapters on subjects ranging from the less rare (craniopharyngioma, spinal lipoma, outcome of severe head injury) to the very rare (primary cerebral neuroblastoma, cavernous haemangioblastoma of the third nerve), while others helpfully summarise experience with the CO₂ laser, ultrasound and shunt insertion, extensive spinal cord astrocytomas, aneurysms of the vein of Galen. These chapters together with those on intracranial fluid dynamics are essential reading for the experienced neurosurgeon—but even more essential for the neurosurgeon who only occasionally enters into the hazardous realm of the neurosurgery of infancy.

KENNETH TELL

The Neurology of Aging. Edited by Robert Katzman & Robert Terry. (Pp 244; £36.50.) Philadelphia: FA Davis Co. UK Agent: Quest Publishing Agency, 1983.

There have been many books on aging in recent years. Indeed, there seem to have been almost as many books on aging as hypotheses as to the aetiology of age-related disease. This book represents the compilation of 15 contributors, all but one from North America. There are ten chap-