differing points of view are conveniently displayed for the many who remain bewildered by the experts. The well-known views of Sir Ludwig Guttmann, especially those against early operative treatment, are forcefully repeated, and there is an orthopaedic surgeon's reply from F. W. Holdsworth whose clear writings have in recent years made certain aspects of this complex subject more intelligible to common surgical people.

This symposium reinforces the already overwhelming case for specialized care in regional centres, where different medical specialists can meet, together with many others who have contributions towards the mitigation of the problems of traumatic paraplegia. But during the great achievements of physical, mental, and industrial rehabilitation in recent years, something important may have been overlooked. A friend recently told me that she would like to see the highest possible education given to paraplegics. The physical attainments of their incomplete bodies will always be limited, but the potentialities of their intact brains could surely be more intensively explored and exploited. There is little mention of the teacher in this book.

There is a fine review by Ernest Bors of the mechanism of micturition (85 references) and Professor Romanes gives an excellent concise account of the arterial blood supply of the spinal cord. There are many other useful and interesting contributions; but a tendency to sermonize, which might have been appropriate at the meeting itself, seems out of place in its published proceedings, particularly where, during the closing exhortation in a paper on social rehabilitation, the editor is discovered, together with Sir Ludwig, in the company of Solomon and Job. But certainly Mr. Harris deserves thanks for his labours.

JOHN POTTER


This well-written book examines the author's hypothesis that one of the most important long-term influences on systemic blood pressure is the resistance to cerebral medullary blood flow and that therefore hypertension commonly arises because of an increase in this resistance. Those who know Dr. Dickinson's work on this subject will not be surprised to learn that he constructs this hypothesis very carefully, tests it experimentally, and finally proves it to his own satisfaction. He admits that his argument is teleological, that it is based on a series of deductions from guesses, and that he may have overemphasized experimental results which agree with his predictions and played down those which do not.

In the first part of the book the author shows that there is a centre in the medulla which if ischaemic can raise systemic arterial pressure, and that increase in cerebrovascular resistance reduces cerebral blood flow and has a systemic pressor effect. In the second part the main hypothesis that hypertension results from, rather than causes, increased vertebral artery resistance is examined, but the fact that cerebral blood flow is normal in all types of hypertension makes this difficult to accept, as does the experience of many workers in this field that stenotic vertebral artery disease is not infrequently found in normotensive patients. Moreover not everyone will accept the statement that all transient cerebral ischaemic attacks are due to distal emboli. In the third part of the book other aspects of the hypothesis are described and the last chapter comprises a final well-argued and succinct account of the author's views, and is followed by an extensive and comprehensive bibliography.

This book is enjoyable, stimulating and provocative, and although many will find it difficult to accept all his conclusions the author must be congratulated on his refreshing candour, his direct style of writing, and his remarkable ability to turn evidence from other sources to good and persuasive account.

A. BARHAM CARTER


This book largely records the experience of the Aarhus Neurosurgical Clinic in the field of facial pain. Although it becomes a little philosophical at times, in general it is a practical and useful guide to the diagnosis and treatment of facial pain. This complaint is common. Once douloureux, facial migraine Costen's syndrome, and a few clearly defined ear, nose, and throat and dental sources of pain have been segregated, the large mass of remaining diagnoses always seems to contain a large psychogenic element. This makes both diagnosis and treatment difficult. This book will be useful to all those dealing with facial pain: both in diagnosis and in treatment. It is rather biased towards the organic diagnosis and the author is perhaps too little aware how psychotherapeutic surgery can be! However, this may be in part because of the type of case referred to a neurosurgical clinic.


It is said to be impossible for a novelist to create a good man who is not also a bore. It is equally difficult for the author of a textbook to avoid being dull. The majority of modern medical textbooks, more handsome and attractive than of yore, are competently written, well organized con speectuses which undoubtedly provide students with all they need to know at their examinations. The student reads them to gain some factual knowledge and guidance. He wants clarity and exposition and he usually gets them. Later, when he is qualified, he finds them less satisfactory when he is struggling with problems of diagnosis and treatment at the bedside. The older clinician looks, perhaps unjustifiably, for much more than this in any new textbook. He turns its pages with curiosity, particularly when, as in this case, he has no personal acquaintance with the author. He 'knows' most of the facts and is reminded of many he has forgotten. He wonders about the author's view on certain topics, his
literary talents, and his ability to bring his book to life. He searches for signs of originality and philosophy of outlook and for those expressions of opinion and experience that bear witness to the personality of the author. He usually looks in vain and this is surely because the schematization, so traditional and seemingly unavoidable, effectively masks the man who wielded the pen. The neurologist who begins his examination with the olfactory nerve and like 'an engine that moves in predestinate grooves', to quote Ronald Knox, labours away until he arrives at the anal reflex, could, one supposes, write a good textbook, but he is much more likely to leave some wonderful notes.

The author of this new textbook is Professor of Neurology in the State University of New York at Buffalo. On page 20 he says 'a routine neurological examination in a cooperative and intelligent patient can be completed in a matter of minutes', something which badly needed saying and which I cannot recall having read in any other textbook of neurology. I warmed to my task.

His book is primarily for students and although the presentation is quite orthodox he has achieved his aim of not just writing 'a synopsis of disease'. (How many times has one read of the 'catalogue raisonné' in prefaces and reviews since it first appeared in the preface to Sir Francis Walsh's 'Diseases of the nervous system' 25 years ago?) Certainly he has been successful in combining adequate and readable clinical descriptions of the commoner major and minor neurological disorders with the necessary background of anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry. The book is well planned and there are useful selected bibliographies at the end of each chapter.

There are no clinical photographs but the standard neuroradiological illustrations are there and they are satisfactorily reproduced and clearly labelled. The anatomical line drawings could be bolder and the short section on electromyography would be better for a few illustrations as in the section on electroencephalography. Figure 47 (p. 391), depicting the blood supply of the brain, is a much better illustration than is commonly employed in texts of this nature. The weakest chapter is the last, on neuropsychiatry. It is an important one and could be sharpened up without much trouble.

Has Professor Smith even seen a case of lumbar syringomyelia? And should he still talk of Gradenigo's syndrome (pp. 181 and 427) after vowing in the preface 'to practice moderation in the use of eponyms'? Neither Argyll-Robertson nor Adie will ever see in the section on the myotonic pupil (p. 192) that offensive neologism 'the pseudo Argyll-Robertson pupil', but Sir Gordon Holmes might and he would not like it at all. In giving examples of organic neurological disorders which may be mistaken for psychogenic illness surely the Guillain-Barré syndrome and subarachnoid haemorrhage are unusual?

A reviewer of a student's textbook (and he should more often be a student) acts as a sort of consumers' guide. In this instance the appropriate designation would be that it was a good 'buy'—soundly constructed, reliable, and likely to sell well.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

BOOK REVIEWS


This small book gives a clear and simple presentation of current physiological concepts of the activities of the reticular formation, the hypothalamus, and the rhinencephalon. It will be specially helpful to senior students of psychology.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL


This book comprises the second series of lectures on the Biochemical aspects of Neurological Disorders given at the Institute of Neurology, The National Hospital, Queen Square, in 1964. Following the same pattern as the original series each topic is dealt with first from the clinical standpoint after which biochemical aspects are discussed. The 18 lectures in the present volume include, for the most part, subjects other than those of the earlier ones.

The first lecture deals with the clinical aspects of muscular dystrophy and is followed by an excellent review of present biochemical knowledge in this field. Myasthenia gravis is similarly considered in two lectures. In chapters on neuropathies the toxic effects of a variety of substances constituting industrial or therapeutic hazards, such as organophosphorus compounds, thalidomide, tetaethyl lead, and methanol are discussed, and a further two contributions deal with diabetic neuropathy. Other lectures are concerned with hypoglycaemia, the clinical and biochemical aspects of head injuries and demyelinating diseases: depressive states and genetic mental disorders are each the subject of two contributors.

Each chapter includes a useful and up-to-date bibliography and there is an excellent index.

These lectures by clinicians and scientists, who are recognized authorities in their respective fields, make a most stimulating, informative and readable book, which supplements and amply maintains the high standards set by the first volume of the series.

G. R. WEBSTER


This book contains the contribution to a symposium of the Society for the Study of Inborn Errors of Metabolism, held at Liverpool in September 1964. The contents indicate clearly the impressive advances made in recent years in knowledge of the biochemical aspects of mental defect. Studies are described on conditions such as phenylketonuria and the aminoacidurias in which an isolated enzymatic defect is present; the problems of dietary treatment of these rare biochemical disorders of mental handicap are also discussed. Other contributions

J. SPILLANE