neurophysiology entirely worker to interpret what on information of papers using. There has been a criticism of the book of many workers in the field of investigation of infections of the central nervous system. For those who are not a patient of viral aetiology. The second edition, three years after the first, speaks for the popularity of this little book. It is divided into three traditional parts: applied anatomy and physiology, bedside skills, and description of disease. The first two parts, for the purpose of this book, can hardly be faulted. Presumably it is read by undergraduates as a reminder of what they have already learnt, later on special occasions by them in practice, and by teachers of medicine wishing to revise quickly unaccustomed material for tutorials or lectures. For these purposes the book says enough and says it clearly. However, fears must be felt for a reader whose only source of neurological information this might be, and the dust jacket suggests that this might be the case. There is too little indication of the relative frequency of diseases and of their urgency, so that, by inference, the reader might believe that disseminated sclerosis was equalled numerically by syringomyelia or that giant-cell arteritis and vitamin B12 neuropathy each carried no more alarm for the doctor than most neurology. To reproduce lecture notes for an already committed audience is one thing; to present them as an introduction is another and, with this volume, not without danger of distortion. There are surprising omissions, too, and ones that could be said to hide important principles and to withhold some of the difficulties of clinical life. For instance, the concept of transient ischaemia of the brain gets insufficient mention and the overwhelming importance of the psychological aspects of pain (particularly facial) are merely hinted at. This kind of deficiency makes for poor remembranding and a misleading tutor. One understands that the confined space of this small volume demands economy of expression as well as pruning of material, but this should not be achieved at the expense of making a recent addition for whose prose who have come to recognize, that is was the most stimulating, intense and provocative meeting they had ever attempted . . .

J. A. SIMPSON


A good handbook on electromyography and related techniques would be welcome. The senior workers in clinical neurophysiology have grown up with the subject and do not require one, but the new generation of neurologists, orthopaedists, and physical medicine workers do need a good summary of the present state of the art. There is an expanding literature in orthopaedic journals of papers using electromyographic techniques in an entirely uncritical way indicating ignorance of the basic principles. It is for that reason that the present book cannot be recommended. For the complete beginner it gives a step-by-step account of the methods used in electromyography, nerve conduction studies, and older forms of electrodiagnosis, but does not provide the information on neuromuscular physiology, volume conduction theory, and instrumentation to enable an isolated worker to interpret what he sees or even to use another manufacturer’s equipment. The illustrations of myotonia and myasthenia are not typical and the latter—which is used twice—suggests failure to ensure that the stimulus was supramaximal and that the hand was immobilized.

The techniques described are those of ten years ago. There is no information on averaging techniques, methods of quantitative electromyography, or even how to reduce the noise level. This is not the handbook we have been waiting for.

H. E. WEBB


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C. H. EDWARDS


This well-illustrated and attractive book is based on papers presented at an international conference in May 1966. In the preface (unsigned) we are told, in that breathless prose which we have come to recognize, that is was 'the most stimulating, intense and provocative meeting they had ever attempted . . . a meeting of the