minds... for three days and nights' matters were 'explored' [three times in the first paragraph] and 'penetrated in depth'. There are 35 contributors, seven British. The meeting place is not disclosed; we can guess.

There are five parts to the book: (1) Aetiology; (2) Pathogenesis; (3) Cranial Anomalies; (4) Mandibulofacial Dysostosis; (5) Cleft Lip and Palate. The illustrations are excellent and I have no doubt that plastic surgeons, anatomists, embryologists, dentists, orthodontists, and paediatricians will find it instructive and helpful.

There is not much in the book of interest to neurologists or neurosurgeons; an account of reconstruction after the separation of conjoined craniopagus twins, a description of craniosynostosis and reference to a number of strange syndromes characterized by various combinations of congenital malformations of the face, the eye or the ear, associated, for example, with facial paralysis, deafness, or the Klippel-Feil syndrome.

LITTLE is known of the aetiology of these malformations, but several participants expressed the view that there is an increasing incidence of cleft lip and cleft palate in recent years. With the thalidomide tragedy in mind one authority concluded that during the first trimester of pregnancy no drugs of any kind, except vitamins, should be administered.

J. D. SPILLANE


This book, one of the American Lectures in Living Chemistry series, is an account by two Japanese authors of disorders, other than Wilson's disease, associating hepatic and cerebral dysfunction. The authors refer to two so-called specific types of hepato-cerebral degeneration—the Inose type, and the pseudo-eulogyria type of Shiraki. This unfamiliar terminology serves only to confuse an already complex subject, but the former seems to correspond to what Western physicians would call hepatic coma and pre-coma, though the latter may possibly include several different conditions. Difficulty in identification is increased by the very poor English of the text, and one is forced at times to guess at the meaning of such phrases as 'trias in the late stadium' which is one feature of the pseudo-eulogyria type. The latter part of the book forms a useful review of the theories of hepato-cerebral disorders, and the potential for treatment based on these theories. It is certainly a useful and unusual source of reference to Far-Eastern literature.


This is a clear account of carotid endarterectomy and its surgical treatment written by a vascular surgeon who has performed almost 600 carotid endarterectomies.

The goal of surgical therapy, states the author with simple candour, is to increase the cerebral blood flow and by doing so prolong life, relieve symptoms, prevent strokes, and improve neurological deficits if possible. Armed with this simple philosophy and unburdened by the doubts which might assail a physician or physiologist he describes the technical aspects with admirable clarity. There is also a helpful chapter on practical management. The succeeding chapters in which he presents the results of operations are unfortunately much less satisfactory, and some figures—for example, the proportion of frank strokes restored to normal after carotid operations—are so unusual as to require further explanation. Insufficient clinical criteria are given for the large group of patients designated as improved. The critical reader will also be disturbed that successful operation in complete carotid occlusion is judged by good backflow and few post-operative angiograms were done. In a number of these cases the artery may have thrombosed again in the post-operative period. Lesions of the vertebral and subclavian arteries are scarcely mentioned.

ALTHOUGH this is an attractively produced and readable book, it adds little to existing knowledge on the subject and its approach is too uncritical to be recommended as a work of surgical scholarship.


This book provides a competent account of existing knowledge. The authors have made a special study of some aspects of experimental epilepsy, but it is disappointing to find so little evidence that such studies are adding new knowledge or suggesting new approaches to the study of epilepsy.


This is a formidable volume which presents an analysis of a vast clinical experience with numerous case records and some excellent clinical photographs. The current problems regarding the physiological problems of epilepsy receive scant consideration.


This lavish atlas of the mesencephalon and diencephalon of the rabbit is intended to supplement Meesen and Olzowski's (1949) atlas of the rabbit's medulla and pons. It contains photographs of 52 sections, some stained for cells and others for myelinated fibres: 28 are frontal, nine horizontal, and 15 sagittal. The legends are in German and English. The plates are followed by about 50 pages of regional description in German, and by a useful anatomical bibliography, also regionally arranged.

The introduction states that 'All details for stereotactic measurements of the rabbit brain may be found in the literature', and the bibliography refers to the paper by Sawyer, Everett, and Green (1954) which gives coordinates for the rabbit's diencephalon. Since many would have wished to consult this new atlas when
planning stereotactic work, the omission of millimetre scales from the plates is unfortunate. It is true that the rough orientations of the planes of section can be obtained from the drawings of the external anatomy of the whole brains on which they are marked; and a rough idea of the scale can be got from the stated magnifications of the photographs (× 4, × 6, × 8) from which the outlines of the anatomical drawings have obviously been traced. In the absence of precise measurements and orientation, however, the atlas remains an exceedingly useful source of information about the nuclei and tracts of the rabbit’s mesencephalon and diencephalon, and as a guide to the anatomical literature. Its high price is likely to confine it to libraries, where Winkler and Potter’s splendid old atlas (1911), with its drawings of frontal sections of the whole of the rabbit’s brain, will continue to be consulted as much as ever.

The production is of a very high standard, but the review copy was faulty in the possession of two sets of pages 25 to 32.


This volume reports the proceedings of the Third Symposium of the Parkinson’s Disease Information and Research Center of Columbia University held in November 1966.


This is a short book but it is strongly recommended as an up-to-date account of myasthenia gravis, presenting a balanced view of recent advances and a judicious selection of the world literature. The presentation is very clear and only an elementary reading knowledge of French is required. Criticisms are minor. The reviewer’s autoimmune hypothesis preceded the recognition of the immunological role of the thymus. Figure 3 requires calibration. The significance of Fig. 8 is obscure; unfortunately the paper from which it is reproduced is omitted from the bibliography. But these are small matters in a well-produced monograph for which the author should be congratulated.

J. A. SIMPSON


'This book is relatively long on methods and empirical findings and relatively short on theoretical speculation and on implications for clinical practice. This reverses the balance usually found in discussions of schizophrenic patients and their families; it is a literature that tends to be disproportionately speculative and assertive'. The subjects of the research were the families of 32 schizophrenic patients (subdivided into those with good and poor pre-morbid personalities) and of 17 normal controls.

The data for study were obtained from a family previously found to elicit divergent opinions; two discussions were held, one involving the parents and the schizophrenic child, the other the parents and the normal child. The recorded data were then carefully analysed with respect to areas such as expressiveness, the strategy of attention-control, the strategy of person-control, disruptions in communications, and responsiveness. This extremely valuable study brings a scientific approach to a field hitherto characterized by woolly and unfounded speculation.


This is the fourth edition of a book which Professor Martini first published in 1931. In the preface, written shortly before his death in 1967, he deplores the fact that the principles and methods set out in his book have not been widely adopted in Germany, as they have in other countries. He attributes this neglect mainly to the inadequate staffing of university clinics and hospitals: it could, however, also be due to the rather intimidating size and style of his manual, which leaves no obvious detail unstated. The work begins with a comprehensive account of the data requisite for evaluating treatment; the appropriate statistical methods; and the use of a computer. This section is clearly intended for comparatively simple operations; such procedures as analysis of variance are not dealt with. The beginner is provided with 11 Fortran programmes written by Dr. Oberhoffer. The second part of the book is devoted to exposition of the special methods for testing the efficacy of treatment for individual diseases and symptoms. Psychiatric disorders are only briefly referred to, but there are sections on the testing of narcotics and tranquillizers, and the alleviation of pain. Neurological conditions covered include disseminated sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, and extra-pyramidal affections. There are many informative passages on such topics as the ethics of double-blind trials, and the problems created by side effects in a therapeutic experiment.

AUBREY LEWIS


This volume records the papers read at the Third Scientific Symposium of the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation at Boston, probably in 1966. The papers are grouped in sections dealing with genetics, problems of neurogenesis, nutrition and the development of nervous systems, deprivation factors, the biological basis of learning, operant techniques in training, rehabilitation, and physical performance of the mentally retarded. The papers vary from valuable surveys of a limited field to scanty reports of incomplete research projects; workers in subnormality will find this volume valuable if they are selective in their choice of what to read.