published symposium is distant. Kuru, scrapie, and various afflictions of mouse and ape are described together with their experimental transmission. The original meeting was incidentally supported in part by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Inc. However, these fringe topics comprise the most stimulating part of the collection. There are useful summaries of neuronal and axonal responses to toxins and trauma and reviews of neuron histochemistry and electron microscopy, which are easily accessible to the non-specialist. The scope of the symposium is perhaps belied by its title, but potential readers should not be discouraged by this. They should, however, ensure that the book is properly bound, as the review copy had 30 pages of text missing.

IVAN T. DRAPER


This is a statistical report on more than 300 servicemen who were assessed, most of them by direct examination, from 10 to 15 years after being injured in the second world war. One intention was to compare those with and without epilepsy in respect of other persisting sequelae and consequently two-thirds of the series had had at least one fit; the remaining third were matched for type and severity of injury with the epileptic group. The whole series is therefore biased towards severe injuries, as the authors explain.

The internal analysis of the epilepsy group is of interest; the type of attack is correlated with neurological deficits, post-traumatic syndrome, EEG and socio-economic adjustment, and the frequency of remission (about 50% after five years) is explored. The remaining chapters consist rather of a catalogue of the ‘constellation of griefs’ (the authors’ felicitous phrase) complained of by these men. After listing the incidence and cross-correlation between the various factors of the post-traumatic syndrome, neurological deficits (including mental impairment), and socio-economic status, the literature on each is very briefly reviewed. But seldom is the contrast or similarity between the authors’ series and those previously reported emphasized nor is a critical argument allowed to develop. Perhaps the chief value of the book will therefore be as a source of data for future investigators, who may be bold enough to risk some speculation. The attempt to compare the five year status with that at 10 to 15 years is made only for certain features, but on the whole the authors’ conclusion was that there was little improvement after the fifth year, but very little deterioration either. It is characteristic of its American origin that this study should assess socio-economic status by the driving and drinking habits of the men as well as by their occupational success.


This excellent clinical atlas should find a valuable place in many departmental medical libraries. It has obvious lessons for neurologists, paediatricians, and geneticists and should also interest ophthalmologists, otorhinolaryngologists, and plastic surgeons. The author chose a formidable task when he endeavoured to tidy up this jungle zone of borderland neurology. In discerning 70 clinical categories of craniofacial anomalies with neurological defects, he has completed a worthwhile enterprise.

His classification is necessarily a general and descriptive one, for little is known of aetiology. If one knew what agents were responsible for disturbance of the first visceral arch, for example, which has much to do with the development of the middle and lower face, light would be thrown on a number of facial deformities. In other categories the embryological derivatives are not focally involved; there may be many types of distal anomalies. Genetic transmission and chromosomal defects play a part in some examples.

Professor Aita has combed the literature and presented his observations in the lucid manner we have enjoyed in his two previous books, Neurologic Manifestations of General Diseases and Neurocutaneous Diseases. There is a classified bibliography of 64 pages and, taken with the summaries and illustrations of the 70 syndromes he describes, the reader in search of information in this field would almost certainly find it. Indeed, he would probably find himself diverted from his initial search and turning the pages with increasing interest—which is one sign of a good book.

J. D. SPILLANE


This short monograph deals with the mechanisms and management of migraine, and is designed for the use and information of the practising physician. The general physician will be concerned with management and diagnosis. Management is dealt with rather briefly. In the specific treatment of the attack, ergotamine derivatives are rightly mentioned as the mainstay; but for 'interval treatment', methysergide, which is now recognized as playing an important but limited part in prophylaxis, is almost the only drug discussed. In diagnosis the common, and some less common, variants are usefully discussed, and some complications mentioned.

The neurologist will be able to draw on his own views and experience on management and will be more interested in evidence for the aetiology and mechanism of migraine. These are briefly reviewed in the earlier chapters of the book. In this context, the definition of migraine as a single entity becomes important, but the author, perhaps wisely, evades this difficult issue. The pattern of the migraine attack is considered in terms of mechanisms and the biochemical and vascular background is discussed in terms of aetiology. Assessment of biochemical findings is a little uncritical at times; but references are given to the original papers by which the interested reader can guide his views. The book gives a useful introduction to an important subject.

C. W. M. WHITTY
