THE THERAPY OF THE WORD IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY By Pedro Entralgo. (Pp. v + 253; $10.00.) Yale University Press: New Haven and London. 1970.

This volume is a translation of a monograph by the professor of the history of medicine at the University of Madrid which appeared in Spanish 12 years ago. Drawing on original sources, the author contends that, while the therapeutic power of verbal communication was clearly recognized in Greek mythology and Greek philosophy, it was largely rejected by Greek medicine. A book, therefore, for modern proponents and opponents of the Vergilian view of medicine as *muta ars*.

CLINICAL NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY (3 vols.) 3rd edition. By F. B. Walsh and W. F. Hoyt. (Pp. xi + 2836, £55.) E. & S. Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1970.

The third edition of this famous textbook has now expanded to three large and expensive volumes. It is now more than ever a work for library reference, but in its sphere there is nothing to touch it. Dr. Walsh states in a foreword that he was not satisfied with the second edition, but he need have no doubts about this one in which he is joined by his former junior colleague Dr. W. F. Hoyt, of San Francisco.

There have been many revisions and additions to the introductory chapters on anatomy and function. All sections show evidence of careful review and those on neuromuscular disorders, cerebrovascular disease, and tumours of the eye, orbit, and nervous system have been extensively rewritten. The book could be smaller if it concentrated on the ophthalmological aspects of neurological disease and omitted much irrelevant material from the many case histories, but it would lose its character. In its present form it doubles as a textbook of neurology for ophthalmologists. Unfortunately, the selection of references is sometimes uncritical.

Proof correction is not immaculate—certainly a difficult task with a book of this size—and the reproduction of half-tone blocks should be better. But these are minor criticisms of a major work which is certain to continue as the foremost authority on its subject.

J. A. SIMPSON

NORMAL TREMOR By Joel Brumlik and Chong-Bun Yap. (Pp. xi + 93; 30 figures; $7.50.) Thomas: Springfield. 1970.

Controversy in science exists mainly at two levels. The first occurs when the results of experiments are disputed; the second concerns the much more thorny field of interpretation of these results. When results themselves are questioned, it almost always turns out that the differences between groups of workers are due to the experimental approaches to a problem being sufficiently far apart to account for the discrepancies.

In research on tremor, far-reaching and apparently irreconcilable views are maintained by various research groups, stemming from both the sources of misunderstanding mentioned. On the one hand, it is supposed that normal tremor is due to cardiac action; on the other, the properties of the feed-back servo-loop supplying muscles are believed by some to lead to self-oscillation at a predominant frequency of 10 Hz.

Professors Brumlik and Yap have performed a great service to workers on normal tremor in writing this book because they set out to make a hard and fast definition of tremor. With this behind them, it will be possible for the various factions to compare their results on a much more realistic basis than hitherto. There can be no doubt that the origin of normal tremor lies in the operation of multiple factors, and it should now be possible to elucidate the degree to which each factor contributes to the overall picture. For example, if cardiac action is the source of resting tremor, it should be easy to alter heart-rate by exercise, say, and then to observe any differences that may result in tremor frequency. Alternatively, a rigid clamp to hold the arm at the elbow, combined with inflation of an arterial cuff, ought to abolish those components of finger tremor due to the pulse.

The book can be recommended as a successful and scholarly attempt to resolve some of the doubts and difficulties which do exist in a particularly controversial aspect of neurophysiological endeavour.

O. C. J. LIPPOLD

NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROSURGICAL NURSING By Esta Carini and Guy Owens. 5th edn. (Pp. 386; illustrated, 89s.) Mosby: St. Louis. 1970.

This is an attractively produced work with its contents arranged in a logical fashion. It commences with an historical review to stimulate interest in the development of the subject, though with the expected transatlantic bias to neurosurgery.

There are chapters on anatomy and physiology of the nervous system, diagnostic methods, therapeutic techniques, surgical therapy, treatment of pain and commonly employed drugs, but the bulk of the book is devoted to a consideration of the special problems presented by the nursing of patients with neurological disorders. Here a deliberate eclecticism has been practised in order to give emphasis to those conditions occurring most frequently.

In this part the coverage is comprehensive and the text is admirably reinforced with many up-to-date references at the end of each chapter.

However, having said this, it is necessary to indicate that the techniques described, and views expressed, reflecting as they do American practice, will not have universal acceptance here.

There are a few minor irritating mistakes, especially in the early chapters, and a most major inaccuracy in Figure 17-16A where lumbar nerve roots are shown pursuing a course dorsal to the laminae!

In summary one would say that this is a well-conceived and pleasantly presented book which unfortunately appears to have been somewhat over-hastily produced and which is not likely to gain wide popularity here. It does not replace currently available British texts dealing with the same subject, though from its broad survey, provision of references, and excellent format, it provides an example that authors here may wish to emulate.

INVOLUNTARY MOVEMENT DISORDERS By Irving S. Cooper. (Pp xx + 410; illustrated; $29.50.) Hoeber Medical Division, Harper and Row: New York. 1969.

Stereotaxic surgery for disorders of tone and movement