The first 50 pages of this atlas are devoted to a clear and concise account of the principal anatomical features of the brain, its blood supply, and an outline of its functional mechanisms. This is followed by a detailed and comprehensive series of lavishly and clearly labelled black and white photographs of the gross anatomy of the brain. As these illustrations attain a high standard, one readily understands why the authors did not have to resort to diagrams to demonstrate some of the more complex anatomical features of the base of the brain and of the brainstem. As these regions are photographed from many angles, this atlas should be of considerable value to the trainee neurosurgeon. There is then a conventional series of excellent illustrations of Weigert-Pal preparations; the only omission, which one hopes might be rectified in future editions, is a series of stained sections of the basal ganglia in the coronal plane. Neuroanatomists in general, however, tend not to appreciate the value of such a series to clinicians and pathologists. Finally, the terminology is just a little frustrating: this is based on standard anatomical nomenclature but surely we are now in an era when such terms as polus frontalis, lobeus occipitalis, and ventriculus quartus should be abandoned.

J. HUME ADAMS

In this book, which is based on neuropathological material encountered in the course of the practice of pathology in a large general hospital, Dr. Slager has made a commendable attempt to provide a much needed concise account of neuropathology. Two of the groups of readers at which the book is aimed—that is, medical students and junior medical staff working in the neurosciences—will find it useful. It is a little unfortunate, however, that Dr. Slager has not dealt with some of the more important aspects of neuropathology in slightly greater detail and in a more logical fashion; thus the chapters on vascular disease and on head injuries are not as clear as they might be and it is surprising that these two topics are dealt with before the general features of intracranial expanding lesions. It is also unusual not to find any mention of epilepsy in the section devoted to hypoxia. On the other hand there are excellent chapters on normal cyto-architecture and reactions to injury, infections, and intracranial tumours, and there is a wealth of concise and informative summaries on many of the rarer diseases of the nervous system. The book is very fully illustrated but a considerable number of illustrations fall short of the standard one expects to find in a book of this type. Each chapter is supported by a brief list of references: one gives a distinguished British neuropathologist a co-author called D. M. Oxon!

J. HUME ADAMS

Violence is not new, but awareness and concern about it are greater than ever before. Everyone, whether prelate, psychologist, policeman, politician, or parent, has a view about its cause and about how it might be reduced or controlled. The medical profession has not been greatly involved in the polemics of violence, apart from the professional involvement of the psychiatrist with the narrow problem of the captured criminal whose sanity is suspect. This book by a neurosurgeon and a psychiatrist asserts that, as violence is merely one aspect of human behaviour, it is an expression of the functioning brain and so is properly the concern of those whose daily life is with the brain. The book is therefore a biologically oriented approach to the problem of violence. It was conceived as a book for other doctors but the authors then decided to redirect their efforts towards the intelligent laity, but have kept plenty of references at the end of each chapter for professional readers. The canvas is broad, although the book is short; somehow there is space for anatomical sketches, EEG traces, pictures of stereotaxic surgery, detailed accounts of individual patients, and even a smattering of poetic and philosophical quotations. This all adds up to an interesting and unusual little book.

BRYAN JENNETT

Every author ought to define his readership and if he indicated this in his preface then his efforts could be judged by that criterion. For books are written to be read, rather than to be sold or reviewed. This one has presumably already sold well because this is the third edition. It is comprehensive and deals with head, spine, autonomic nervous system, and peripheral nerves and includes more than 900 references grouped at the end of each of these four sections. For almost every procedure or instrument there is a historical introduction with references, and this fills out the text considerably. Indeed, there is sometimes as much on history as on the practicalities of a procedure. Anatomy is not only stressed but at
VIOLENCE AND THE BRAIN

Bryan Jennett

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