at medical students then these limitations are acceptable. There is a very useful list of references at the end of each chapter and also a summary of the contents of each chapter contained in one to two pages. The summary is unnecessary as each chapter itself is something of a summary of present knowledge in the field. The book is beautifully and copiously illustrated. The diagrams are clear, concise, and easily assimilable. This volume is well written and achieves its object of summarising neuro-anatomy and neurophysiology as pertinent to basic training in clinical neurology. I think it will be of value to medical students in training. I doubt if postgraduate neurology students would find much new information in it.

J. P. BALLANTYNE


In 1974 the subject chosen for the Annual Cancer Symposium at the Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, was tumours of the nervous system. This is the proceedings. The title is a little misleading, half the book being about pituitary tumours. This is also the best half, with Simon Kramer, Glenn Sheline, and others discussing the advantages and disadvantages of radiotherapy, without surgery, as the initial treatment of choice; and Kjellberg giving the benefit of his unrivalled experience of proton beam therapy.

For medulloblastoma, John Mullen of Chicago advocates preoperative shunting and minimal surgery, before proceeding to radiotherapy.

At the end of each section the neurosurgeons and radiotherapists at the meeting debated the various problems that had been raised. Publication of such discussion adds further interest to a well-produced text.

THURSTAN B. BREWIN


In the rapidly expanding field of clinical neurophysiology with its new techniques, concepts, and, of course, controversy, it is no mean task to attempt to cover the basic principles in a book of only 300 pages. By excluding material that is not of immediate relevance to the practising clinician, by dispensing with redundant prose and by using illustrations only where they are pertinent to understanding of the subject, Dr Lenman has succeeded in producing a clear and adequate account of the physiology of the nervous system.

The book is primarily of interest to the clinical neurologist who can refresh his knowledge of those aspects of neurophysiology in which he may not have a primary interest but can be read with benefit by the undergraduate who has completed the pre-clinical course. At the end of each chapter is to be found a useful list of key references for those who wish to explore the subject in greater depth.

I have no serious criticisms of this book which I found enjoyable to read and can recommend it without reservation.

J. P. BALLANTYNE


It is a truism that there is no direct relation between the importance of a subject and the research effort put into it. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the field of brain disease in old age, which is a most significant cause of disability in the general population, and yet has until relatively recently attracted little attention from pathologists, physicians, and psychiatrists. Understanding of the pathological processes involved is limited and management difficult. These two volumes are accounts of meetings of American societies interested in aging and in neurosciences held in 1974. They thus review at least part of the present state of knowledge.

The first volume is the product of a meeting of the American Aging Association. It contains eight papers on the pathology and chemistry of the developing and aging brain. Two are of considerable interest, the first by Scheibel and Scheibel on structural changes, in which the possible significance of neurofibrillary tangles as a cause of loss of dendrites in cortical neurones is stressed, the second by Brizzee and others, in which the accumulation and distribution in the aging nervous system of lipofuscin, amyloid, and senile plaques is reviewed. The other contributions mainly concern the neurochemistry of aging, a field still awaiting illumination.

The second volume derives from a meeting of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. Two contributions deal with psychological aspects of the aging brain, two with the cerebral
TUMOURS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

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