Book reviews

WORKSHOP IN HYDROCEPHALUS, Compiled and edited by Kenneth Shulman. (Pp. 191, 54 figures.) Sponsored by Department of Neurosurgery, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. University of Pennsylvania Printing Office. 1966.

The surgical treatment of hydrocephalus in infancy is still most unsatisfactory. The current use of ingenious valves and shunt operations gives quick relief to progressive enlargement of the head, but few of these patients ever outgrow the need for a shunt device. On the other hand, Dr. John E. Scarff insists that better ultimate results are obtained by the older but more difficult operations advocated by Dandy, of third ventriculostomy and/or extirpation of the choroid plexuses.

This volume reports a conference in June 1966 concerned with these important but difficult problems.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

SPINAL CORD DISEASE. A Radiologic and Myelographic Analysis, By Guido Lombardi and Angelo Passerini. (Pp. x + 175; 107 figures; 28 tables. 72s.) Edinburgh: E and S. Livingstone. 1964.

This is a well-illustrated account of myelographic diagnosis from the Neurological Institute of Milan. There is little information on straight radiology of the spine or on gas myelography but the uses (and abuses) of positive-contrast media are well displayed. The title is a little misleading as most of the material is extremedullary and of mainly surgical interest. The neurologist could wish that the final chapter on miscellanea, including syringomyelia and hypertrophic interstitial polyneuritis, was dealt with as comprehensively as the other subjects which include malformations of the cord, roots, and membranes; vascular anomalies, spinal cord tumours, diseases of the epidural space, spinal arachnoiditis, and degenerative diseases of the intervertebral discs.

Illustrations are excellent and the text is useful, though largely a review of relevant literature with statistical tables from the Institute and reported cases (subject to the usual uncertainty about selectivity). The book is written in good English but a statement that certain lesions 'affect long tracts of the cord' is not used in the technical sense.

J. A. S.

NERVOUS CONTROL OF THE HEART. Edited by W. C. Randall. (Pp. xx + 251; Illustrated. 90s.) Williams and Wilkins. 1965. Baltimore.

This book is a report of a symposium at which were brought together experts on neural mechanisms and experts on cardiovascular mechanisms to discuss the nervous control of the heart. There are sections dealing with the intracranial representation of cardiac innervation, with the pathways in the central nervous system subserving cardiovascular functions, with the terminal innervation of the heart, and with the effect of autonomic

stimulation on cardiac action. It makes available current knowledge on a previously neglected subject. Most of the information is derived from experiments on animals, and the book may serve to inspire clinicians to see how much of it can be confirmed or refuted in man. Patients with lesions from neurological diseases may be particularly suitable for furthering knowledge in this way.

J. M. K. SPALDING

COLLATERAL CIRCULATION OF THE BRAIN, By William S. Fields, Martin E. Bruetman and Jorge Wiebel. 1965. (Pp. 183-259; 57 figures.) Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company. 1965.

This brief monograph is reprinted from the 'Monographs in the Surgical Sciences' series. It provides a detailed account of the embryology of the cerebral circulation showing the origin of the various collateral channels which are available to the fully developed brain. The anomalies encountered at angiography are likewise explained and the collateral channels which function in relation to arterial obstruction at a great number of sites indicated. All this is well described and illustrated; it is in the section on the dynamics of the collateral circulation that the monograph is less satisfactory, the treatment being too superficial, and dubious statements, such as the opening of collateral channels being 'probably effected via a vasomotor reflex causing vasodilation of functional collaterals', being included.

The monograph is, however, a useful book for its anatomical and angiographic content.

LUMBAR DISC LESIONS, 3rd ed. By J. R. Armstrong. (Pp. xii + 307; 66 figures. 65s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1965.

This is an excellent account of the pathogenesis of lesions of the lumbar discs and of the mechanical derangements of the vertebral column caused thereby and the fact that the book is now in its third edition is attributable to its value in these respects. For the neurologist, however, faced as he is with the differential diagnosis of lumbar disc lesions, it is less than satisfying. The description of weakness in terms of joint movement rather than affected muscles, and absence of discussion of such syndromes as 'intermittent claudication of the spinal cord' with central disc protrusions, are examples of its weakness in this regard. Nevertheless as an orthopaedic text it is very satisfying and is well illustrated.

JOHN MARSHALL

FOUNDATIONS OF ANESTHESIOLOGY, 2 vols. By A. Faulconer Jr. and T. E. Keys. (Pp. 715. \$38.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

This substantial work is a history of the development of anaesthesia. There are brief biographical notes, but the bulk of the work consists of reprints of original articles which have been of particular importance in the development of anaesthesia, anaesthetic agents, and anaesthetic