produces cerebral vasoconstriction. The clinical results so far seem disappointing, although the possible value of combining this method with hypothermia was stressed by some surgeons.

This book is a great credit to our American colleagues and should be read by anyone interested in this type of research or in the treatment of cerebrovascular disease.

A. BARHAM CARTER

HISTOLOGISCH-DIAGNOSTISCHER ATLAS DER GESCHWULSTE DES ZENTRALNERVENSYSTEMS UND SEINER ANHANGSGEBILDE By Alexander Arendt. (Pp. 180; 147 figures; 9 tables. DM 59.50.) Jena: Fischer Verlag. 1964.

This diagnostic atlas of tumours involving the central nervous system contains over 160 illustrations based on the examination of 1,368 specimens between the years 1953 and 1962. Black and white is used exclusively and this often enables a higher degree of clarity to be reached than is possible with colour at comparable cost. However, some of the pictures are rather drab, and a few, especially in the sections on ependymomas and medulloblastomas, are not sufficiently sharp. One feels that more use could have been made of inserts to give a wider range of magnification as some pictures are unnecessarily large.

The classification of tumours used holds few surprises for Anglo-Saxon neuropathologists and in the main follows the well-known work of Zulch. Under 'spongioblastoma' there are several examples which in the United Kingdom would probably be labelled differently. The variable histology of the less typical forms of oligodendroglioma is well illustrated. There are helpful tables of differential diagnosis in the text and a thorough reference list.

W. H. MCMENEMEY

SPINA BIFIDA AND THE TOTAL CARE OF SPINAL MYELOMENINGOCELE By E. Durham Smith. (Pp. xiv + 154; illustrated \$11.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

Mr. Durham Smith has produced an attractive and readable account of modern knowledge of a common and serious congenital malformation which is currently arousing a good deal of interest and research.

Inevitably, some will think that he goes too far in his recommendations for what Ellison Nash has called the 'salvage' of these unfortunate children. Others will regard him as much too conservative. But his suggestions for when to operate and when to leave alone, and the priority as between repair of the spine and control of hydrocephalus are given in a balanced and humane way. Some have their own views on this matter and will adhere to them regardless; but those who follow Mr. Durham Smith will do little harm and much good.

There are a few points to criticize. A third of the text is devoted to observations on the function of the urinary bladder in congenital spinal palsy—Mr. Durham Smith's special interest—which is perhaps excessive; it is doubtful whether drainage of the sac of a myelomeningocele into the peritoneal cavity often (if ever) controls hydrocephalus for long; although the practical classification of degrees of paraplegia is admirable, the detailed neurological examination of spina bifida babies can yield more

information than Mr. Durham Smith indicates. Perhaps more important, the social and psychological implications of survival with severe disability could be explored in greater depth in a book the title of which speaks of 'total care'. But these minor faults detract little from the value of a carefully written, well produced and illustrated monograph. Neurologists, neurosurgeons, and neuropathologists, as well as those interested in paediatric medicine and surgery, will all find much to stimulate their interest—and almost certainly at least one aspect of a difficult problem which they had not previously considered.

HYDROCEPHALUS AND SPINA BIFIDA. Proceedings of the Groningen Meeting: 1965. (Pp. 95; illustrated 8s.) London: W. Heinemann. 1966.

This book contains papers given at a meeting of the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida in 1965 at Groningen and provides a good survey of recent problems in surgical treatment by shunt procedures. A survey by Laurence showed that 16% of cases of spina bifida cystica and encephalocele survive without surgery. In Rickham and Mawdsley's Liverpool series of infants with early operation (within 24 hours of birth), at least 56% survived.

In 31 necropsied cases with ventriculo-atrial shunt, Erdohazi, Eckstein, and Crome found evidence of pulmonary embolization in no fewer than 17 instances, and suggest that pulmonary hypertension may prove to be a late complication of this method of treatment.

The volume includes interesting post-mortem angiographic studies by Emery and Levick of the displacement of the basilar and posterior inferior cerebellar arteries in the Arnold-Chiari deformity and also a valuable embryological study of this condition by van Hoytema and van den Berg.

R. M. NORMAN

ACTUALITÉS NEUROPHYSIOLOGIQUES Sixième Série. Edited by P. Laget and A. Monnier. (Pp. 302; 138 figures, 14 tables. F80.) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1965.

This is the sixth annual issue of this excellent series, in which neurophysiologists from all over the world, many of them people of international repute, have written general accounts of their own recent investigations. The printed articles are the substance of special lectures originally delivered to young scientists at the Sorbonne. They are compact, interesting and readable, and their authors, and the public, certainly owe a great deal to the editorial care of Professor Laget and Madame Monnier. Neurologists who wish to know how neurophysiologists choose subjects for investigation, and how they set about their work, could do worse than become regular subscribers to *Actualités Neurophysiologiques*.

Volume VI covers a wide range of topics, including (among others) ultrastructure of axon membranes, metabolism of nervous tissue, blood-brain barrier, properties of single brain cells, organization of neural circuits in spinal cord and thalamus, special senses (vision and taste), nature of the E.E.G., selective arousal from sleep, and, for good measure, a neurologist's view of the brain-mind problem in terms of 'coding' and a neurophysiologist's commentary on it.