to turn at once to a tight, clear article by Meves describing recent studies of the Na^+ channel of activated nerve. They may then browse in an imaginative, but I fear not faultless, paper about the fixed ionic structures of the membrane contributed by Rojas and others.

Many clinicians will be drawn, by the title, to read Seeman's account of some inquiries into the actions of anaesthetics and other drugs. They will find, however, that his presentation is somewhat hasty and that the cells he has worked on are red cells, not nerves. By contrast, any readers of this journal concerned with immunological processes (but not too specifically with autoimmunity) will find an extensive section, which as far as I may judge is of good calibre, dealing with their mechanisms at both the surface and internal membranes of cells. Also several papers have some light to cast on tumour growth. These passages may well be among the most fruitful in the volume. Elsewhere there are good songs sung, and there are poor; there are old hats worn, and new. But there is nothing else for listing here.

N. C. SPURWAY

THE CENTRAL ROLE OF HORMONES By Mary Pickford, F.R.S. (Pp. vii + 112; 6 figures; 37½p.) Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh. 1969.

The Contemporary Science Paperbacks, of which this is an outstanding example, provide compact scientific reviews at amazingly low cost. Though intended for the non-specialist reader they are authoritative and provided with key references to recent symposia and reviews which make them valuable for busy clinicians as well as for students. Professor Pickford has written an interesting little book on some aspects of endocrinology which are of particular interest to readers of this journal, as the main theme is on the inter-relationship between the central nervous and endocrine systems in development and in the control of behaviour. It should be of particular value to DPM candidates.

J. A. SIMPSON

DIE KLINIK DES WUNDSTARRKRAMPFES IM LICHTE NEUZEITLICHER BEHANDLUNGSMETHODEN By K. Eyrich. (Pp. 95; illustrated; DM.20.) Springer: Berlin.

Tetanus remains a dire complication of even insignificant wounds, and even in the hands of experienced teams in an intensive care unit, the mortality still hovers around 25%; it is higher in the older age groups.

The author has compiled in this small monograph all modern knowledge about the illness, which he has divided into three grades according to its severity, and he has analysed the mortality for each group. The pathophysiology of tetanus is probably a dis-inhibition of anterior horn cells, but histological changes do not appear in the central nervous system. The muscles, however, show evidence of a benign and reversible myopathy, and accordingly there are enzyme changes in the patient's serum.

Specific therapy, such as wound excision and treatment with antitoxin, is disappointing, but tracheostomy with peripherally acting muscle relaxants as well as heavy sedation offers the best chances for recovery. As in any intensive care patient there is need for a specially trained

team to supervise artificial respiration, lack of albumin, and anaemia. Common causes of death are pneumonia, atelectasis, and hyperthermia, but a multitude of other complications, particularly cardiac arrest, occur.

The author estimates that the cost of treatment for one patient in Freiburg is in the region of £2,500, which would be sufficient to provide for the immunization of all schoolchildren in Freiburg for the next 15 years.

This is a highly practical and readable monograph which contains in its 81 pages all recent work on this dread disease. A very complete bibliography enhances its value. It is appropriately published in the series on 'Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation'.

J. SCHORSTEIN

DIE LIPIDE DES NORMALEN UND PATHOLOGISCHEN LIQUOR CEREBROSPINALIS. By Hartmut Pilz. (Neurology, series No. 4.) (Pp. viii + 123; illustrated; DM.48.) Springer: Berlin. 1970.

This monograph by one of the younger German medical scientists is a most excellent survey of research concerning the lipids found in the cerebrospinal fluid. Not only does the author describe the results obtained by himself and many other workers, but he enables the reader to discern their value in health and disease by including brief descriptions of the techniques employed. There is one extremely important section devoted to thin-layer chromatography in which are included details of almost every solvent and every method of staining together with the appropriate references, sufficient for all research workers in this field.

There is a short chapter in which the results in cerebrospinal fluid are compared with those found in blood. This volume is completed by an excellent list of references.

The scientist and laboratory worker must read this book and have it available at all times, while the clinical neurologist would do well to study it so as to understand better the basis of much disease so ably demonstrated by the medical scientist of today.

J. N. CUMINGS

TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION 1968 (Vol. 93) Edited by Melvin D. Yahr. (\$11). 1969 (Vol. 94). Edited by Samuel A. Trufant. (\$12). Springer Publishing Company, Inc.: New York.

Published with commendable speed, these *Transactions* provide a valuable running record of the prodigious amount of neurological research in the United States. Members of the Association have a valuable reminder of the papers presented at their Annual Meeting. Others may find the summaries of limited value (the absence of references is particularly frustrating). Well-known authorities are invited to open the discussion of each paper, and publication of their remarks adds to the value of the volumes (but it would be refreshing to read adverse criticism).

This form of publication has its disadvantages. It discourages presentation for criticism of work in progress. The full data may never be available for critical appraisal, and the papers are difficult to trace through abstracting services. Indeed, a variorum without a subject index is useless as a bibliographic tool.

J. A. SIMPSON