An introductory chapter entitled concept, classification, and nosology of the leucodystrophies traces the development of thought in this complex group, quoting the original contributions and providing a full bibliography. There is a 30 page chapter on the biochemistry of normal lipid metabolism. There is a well-illustrated section on the electron microscopy of the lipidoses. This is proving to be particularly fruitful as the large lipoprotein molecules can now be identified visually.

The recent advances in molecular biology and lipid and protein chemistry have introduced pathological concepts of numbing complexity. The editors have given appropriate prominence to the chemical pathology, yet have maintained a conscious awareness of the clinician's experience, facilities, and role. The clinical applications are pre-eminent, yet the underlying neurochemistry presents a satisfying intellectual challenge.

IVAN T. DRAPER

ATLAS OF CEREBRAL ANGIOGRAPHY By Takayoshi Nomura. (Pp. 322; illustrated; \$22.50.) Igaku Shoin: Tokyo, and Springer: Berlin. 1970.

After a discussion of technique there is a 38 page section which describes with the aid of 17 diagrams the normal and pathological anatomy. This is followed by the atlas section which is flanked at each end by three foldout inserts showing the normal appearances alongside explanatory line drawings. This arrangement enables immediate comparison of the normal with any of the 212 full page illustrations. The detail of the illustrations is generally good, although the author's method of performing angiography is almost primitively simple.

Parts of the book are tiresome to read and difficult to understand because of the misuse of words. For example, on page 22 one reads; 'Chiefly it runs obliquely from the anteriorly downward and to the posteriorly upward, but occasionally takes the figure which turns back to descend.' The selection of cases appears to be rather unbalanced; thus in a large section on vascular diseases it is surprising to find no illustration of the frequently encountered collateral circulation via the maxillary and ophthalmic arteries. In the last section, the summaries of the clinical findings in the 117 cases illustrated do not contain sufficient morbid anatomical detail. There are 237 references.

J. LESLIE STEVEN

NEUROELECTRIC RESEARCH: Electroneuroprosthesis, electroanesthesia and nonconvulsive electrotherapy. Edited by David V. Reynolds and Anita E. Sjöberg. (Pp. 466; illustrated; \$27.25.) Thomas: Springfield.

This volume contains 45 papers selected from the 1969 conference of the Neuroelectric Society. The subjects range from the history of electrotherapy to tactile television, electroanesthesia, electrosleep, and measurement of current distribution paths in the brain. Science, pseudoscience, and mumbo-jumbo are intermingled throughout, and it is quite an interesting exercise sorting out one from another. The danger of this kind of collection is that some good ideas are lost in electro-confusion, to coin yet another new term.

R. G. WILLISON

LECTURE NOTES ON NEUROLOGY 3rd ed. By Ivan T. Draper. (Pp. 231; £1.50.) Blackwell: Oxford.

Dr. Draper's third edition of *Lecture Notes on Neurology* is a good book, reasonably priced, and clearly one to be recommended to students. It is not too long and is well written. It is a successful book and it would surprise me very much if Dr. Draper did not have the opportunity of producing many more editions.

There are a number of small points on which critical comment is necessary and which in subsequent editions the author might consider altering. There is an implication on p.16 that unsteadiness, worse when the eyes are closed, must be due to a posterior column lesion. The difficult problem of explaining the action of extra-ocular muscles is dealt with not very clearly and the figure (Figure 12) illustrating movements, though correct, could be confusing and, unfortunately, it is repeated as Figure 24 later in the book.

The pathology of tabes is described as involving destruction of the posterior root ganglion 'nerve cell bodies'. Most authorities seem agreed that such loss of cells as may be present is not enough to account for the degeneration in the posterior columns. In the section on syringomyelia it is a pity that recent ideas on the aetiology were not included, particularly in view of the therapeutic possibilities.

C. J. EARL

THE TRAUMATIC AMNESIAS By W. Ritchie Russell. (Pp. ix + 84; illustrated; £2.00.) Oxford Neurological Monographs. Oxford University Press: London. 1971.

Professor Ritchie Russell's monograph maintains the high standard and high degree of interest established by the other contributors to this series. His early work, founded on detailed studies of head-injured patients was published in the early 1930s. Since then he has gone on to develop his concepts of memory, learning, and amnesia in the light of experience and expanding biological knowledge. Some of the earlier papers are no longer easily available; annotated extracts from these, together with more recent contributions, are presented in this volume.

The style is literate and the content memorable.

IVAN T. DRAPER

VENTRICULOCISTERNOSTOMY: Long term experiences. By R. C. Cantu, J. J. Michelson, and J. C. White. (Pp. 138, 23 figures; \$12.25.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1970.

This monograph contains a detailed description of a series of 54 patients treated by Torkildsen's ventriculocisternostomy. Thirty-nine of the patients were operated on because a neoplasm was obstructing the circulation of the cerebrospinal fluid; the longest survival in this group was 17 years. The good results obtained in nine patients with benign aqueduct stenosis are reported; the longest postoperative follow-up in this group is 27 years in a man who was aged 21 at the time of his operation.

A chapter by Dr. Paul New discusses and illustrates the radiological findings with great clarity. The authors stress the importance of first-class radiological studies in case selection by warning that a Torkildsen shunt will fail when the subarachnoid spaces are blocked - for

example, at 'the basilar cisterns, at the tentorial hiatus, or in the subarachnoid space over the cerebral hemispheres . . . '.

The authors explain their strong preference for the operation of ventriculocisternostomy by adducing reasons for distrusting ventriculoatrial shunts.

Because of the length of follow-up and the good clinical documentation, this is a valuable record of the results obtained by a particular operation. The book is well produced and well illustrated; the references reveal the authors' knowledge of the subject and are very well chosen.

However, one is left with a critical doubt. The price of the book approximately equals six months' subscription to a neurosurgical journal. Much that is written here could have been compressed and contained within contributions to current journals where it would inevitably have reached more readers. So while enjoying the contents of the volume, the wisdom of publishing it as a monograph must be questioned.

ANTONY JEFFERSON

VI CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL DE NEUROPATHOLOGIE, Paris, 1970. (Pp. 1184; illustrated, 250F.) Masson and Cie: Paris. 1970.

This massive volume is made up of more than 300 of the papers given at the VIth International Congress of Neuropathology held in Paris in September 1970. It may seem that the proceedings have been published commendably quickly but this is really because texts had to be submitted many months in advance so that the books could be available to participants. The material and references are therefore not any more up to date than one normally expects of the proceedings of large international congresses. A further defect is that there is no record of any relevant discussion.

There were four major themes at the congress. The first, devoted to the influence of environment on the nervous system, is divided into two sections—chemical influences and physical influences. In these sections there is a considerable amount of information on deficiencies of various factors, intoxications, head injuries, and the effects of irradiation. The second major theme is also subdivided, one section dealing with the biology and pathology of central neuroglia and the other with the biology of cerebral tumours. The third and fourth themes are allocated respectively to the pathology of peripheral nerves and terminal organs, and to the pathogenesis of 'slow virus' diseases of the central nervous system. As these two themes occupy more than a third of the book, they contain a wealth of information. Indeed the section on 'slow virus' diseases is probably the best in the book. Finally, there are over 100 papers dealing with cerebral tumours, various aspects of electron microscopy (the illustrations are not good), and a wide variety of miscellaneous conditions.

This book is unlikely to be found on an individual's shelves unless he was persuaded to obtain it on arrival at the congress. It is also doubtful if it will even be a valuable reference book.

THE UNIQUE LEGACY OF DR. HUGHLINGS JACKSON By A. M. Lassek. (Pp. v + 146; \$6.75.) Thomas: Springfield. 1970.

The Unique Legacy of Doctor Hughlings Jackson is advertised 'to increase your professional effectiveness'. It is a digest of Jackson's wide ranging contributions to the art of neurology. However, the ingenuity which characterized the original papers is missing from this résumé. The revolutionary flavour of his conclusions has been diminished by the process of editing. The omission of a bibliography lessens its usefulness.

IVAN T. DRAPER

ERGEBNISSE DER EXPERIMENTELLEN MEDIZIN. 3: PHYSIOLOGIE VON ERREGUNG UND KONTRAKTION—Physiologie des Zns. (Pp. 422; 190 figures; DM. 45.80.) Volk und Gesundheit: Berlin. 1970.

This book consists of 23 papers under the heading of stimulation and contraction and 31 papers under the heading of physiology of the CNS. The contributors are mainly from East Germany, but there are also some from Western Europe.

P. W. NATHAN

THE FOUNDERS OF NEUROLOGY 2nd edition. Compiled and edited by Webb Haymaker and Francis Schiller. (Pp. xxi + 616; illustrated; price not stated.) Thomas: Springfield. 1970.

This attractive book provides 146 short, lively biographies of those neurological luminaries who established their specialty on a scientific basis. Some of the great figures of the 19th century now enshrined in the eponyms of disease or clinical sign emerge as individuals, possibly drawn a little larger than life.

The 89 authors are almost as well-known as their subjects and, if not founders of neurology, they are some of this generation's most distinguished contributors.

IVAN T. DRAPER

TRANSKULTURELLE PSYCHIATRIE By Wolfgang M. Pfeiffer. (Pp. x + 166; DM. 39.60.) Thieme: Stuttgart. 1970.

Transcultural psychiatry or, as we might prefer to name it, cross-cultural psychiatry, dates back to the first explorations of Africa and later the new world of America. Stories then told were anecdotal and hardly scientific, but it must be remembered that a culture which admits a western psychiatrist together with an anthropologist and sociologist has necessarily and to a varying extent been eroded by western influences, and no longer presents its pristine features.

The author of this monograph is well qualified to discuss the subject. He has spent many years as a psychiatrist in Indonesia, he has kept in close contact with colleagues in others parts of the 'third world' and has previously contributed many important papers concerning psychiatric abnormalities in other than western culture. The present monograph combines his own observations with those of others and is not limited to a description of the malady, but it tries to establish social backgrounds and the reactions of society towards the mental deviation.