times laboured, presumably the result of adding an anatomist to the previous team of authors. Thus in the middle of a description of the removal of a temporal epidural haematoma the anatomy of the middle meningeal artery is introduced, complete with its ganglionic branch and the superior tympanic artery, which really have absolutely no relevance to this vital emergency operation. The preface indicates that the surgery of trauma is particularly stressed, so it is perhaps fair to judge the book by such operations. In describing epidural haematoma no reference is made to diagnostic difficulties arising from haematomas in sites other than the classical temporal one; the term subtemporal decompression is used where most would now talk of craniectomy and we are told that in the experience of the authors half the patients have a bone flap turned and half have a craniectomy. Surely this depends more on local policy than on an absolute need to do one kind of operation or another. The size of the craniectomy is described as that of a silver dollar, which I am assured even American readers may not be wholly familiar with. A lot of words are wasted on statements of the obvious or else permissive instructions—a bone flap of *adequate size* should be turned, a drain *may* be left in, the dura *may* be repaired (my italics).

Books on operative surgery depend heavily on their pictures and this one has the novel idea of using line diagrams, described as multiple action and multiple plane pictures. As they are on ordinary nongloss paper they could have been distributed at will throughout the text but in fact they are grouped on right-hand pages. Some are clear and helpful but others are crowded too close together and the loss of perspective also makes for difficulties. The legends are difficult to relate to the right part of the picture and it would be wise, before another edition, to pass every page of illustrations to a potential reader and take note of any difficulties he has in interpretation; few of us would dare write anything without inviting scrutiny from an unbiased critic. If this were done and the text balanced up regarding the common versus the rare and the historical versus the practical, this might become a very interesting and effective book.

BRYAN JENNETT

RESEARCH ON THE CEREBRAL CIRCULATION Edited by J. S. Meyer, H. Lechner, M. Reivich, and O. Eichhorn. (Pp. 297; illus.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1970.

One of the problems presented by the explosion of activity in the field of cerebral circulation in the last decade is the exponential increase in the number of meetings on the topic; and as night follows day,

reports follow conferences. Professor Zulch, in his introduction to this report of the Fourth Salzburg Conference, draws attention to this and identifies the special characteristics of this group as being concerned with bedside problems. Certainly most of the contributions do relate to human observations, albeit including a considerable number of pathological reports. Discussion is very fully reported but adequately edited; illustrations are plentiful and excellently reproduced. With 35 chapters ranging from a length of 10 pages to 10 lines, it is impossible in this review to indicate the topics covered as there was no unifying theme to this particular meeting. It is inevitable that many of the names are familiar from previous (and subsequent) cerebral circulation conferences; if conferences are to continue at their present rate it might be a bold move to add a question on the application form, 'At which recent conferences have you already presented this paper?' However, as a conference report this is of a very high standard, readable and well produced although somewhat dated in some of the more dynamic aspects of the subject. It carries no mention of the date of the meeting—my guess in 1968.

BRYAN JENNETT

THE ANATOMY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM OF OCTOPUS VULGARIS By J. Z. Young. (Pp. 690; illus.; £11.00.) Oxford University Press: London. 1971.

Most cephalopods are large, active, versatile animals with a necessarily complex nervous organization. For the best of evolutionary reasons, however, they are anatomically about as far from mammals as it is possible to be. They thus present a formidable challenge to the behavioural scientist and the neurobiologist. We owe it to J. Z. Young, and to the workers whom he has inspired, that the challenge has been so effectively accepted. Among non-mammalian animals they have established the octopus as a uniquely valuable object of study. There is hardly a general problem in neurobiology, from axon physiology to the neurological basis of memory, to which octopus has not made an important contribution.

Young, with the help of some of his colleagues, has performed a real service in producing this magnificent working treatise. It is primarily a lavishly and handsomely illustrated anatomy, but it reflects the interests, behavioural and physiological, that have given the incentive for the work it reports. Indeed it includes technical advice on surgical procedures as well as on histological ones. By making the approach to cephalopod neurobiology easier than it would otherwise have been it will certainly attract new workers to the field.

D. R. NEWTH