Book reviews

BRAIN HYPOXIA Edited by J. B. Brierley and B. S. Meldrum. (Pp. 320; illustrated; £4.50.) Clinics in Developmental Medicine No. 39/40. Spastics International Medical Publications. Heinemann: London; Lippincott: Philadelphia. 1971.

It used to be possible to keep in touch with recent advances by subscribing to a journal and attending the meetings of a professional society. This is no longer adequate for the advanced worker who can not afford to wait for published results and continuous bibliographic searches, and who requires more detail than is appropriate to the paper read at a normal meeting. The proliferation of esoteric groups and symposia is inevitable. The outsider may deplore the conference proceedings published at a later date but it is absurd to criticize them for not being something else. They are not textbooks or definitive papers but reports of work in progress communicated to colleagues from many countries. These ephemera are extremely valuable to other research workers, and to those directly involved who want to know what is going on.

If a Rothschild client were to commission neurological research the subject of brain hypoxia would be one of the first. This Carshalton Symposium, organized by the Medical Education and Information Unit of the Spastics Society in association with the Medical Research Council, is one of the best in this rapidly advancing field. It is beautifully produced with succinct editorial introductions to each section.

J. A. SIMPSON

ATLAS OF THE ULTRASTRUCTURE OF DISEASED HUMAN MUSCLE By W. G. P. Mair and F. M. S. Tome. (Pp. 249; 84 plates; £4.50.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1972.

The amazing post-war advances in knowledge of diseases of the muscles continues unabated but emphasis has shifted from clinical description and classification through enzymology and electromyography to histochemistry and ultrastructural studies. In a rapidly advancing field it is always difficult to know when the state of the art justifies production of an atlas or textbook to supply the requirements of new entrants. The time for an atlas of ultrastructure is well chosen, though inevitably the stop-press news (such as the end-plate in myasthenia gravis) is missing. The authors of this splendid book from the National Hospital, Queen Square are to be congratulated on the technical perfection of their pictures. They are well chosen and concisely

annotated. The text is a model of brevity, conveying all the essential information clearly and succinctly with well-chosen references. The plates are better than a journal can normally achieve and the difficulties of publication should not be underrated. The publishers have maintained their usual high standard at a cost which, for a work of this kind, must be considered modest.

J. A. SIMPSON

NEURORADIOLOGIC ANATOMY: A Stereoscopic Atlas By R. S. Leighton. (Pp. 340; illustrated; £25.50.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1971.

The author has prepared several plastic casts, appropriately coloured, of the cerebral arteries, veins, ventricles, and cisterns, and has photographed these casts from various aspects. To correlate with these there is a series of stereoscopic radiographs derived from clinical and necropsy subjects. The book contains 112 full-page line drawings of each view of the casts and 42 illustrations of the radiographs, all clearly keyed to the 154 stereoscopic transparencies which are mounted in 22 Viewmaster reels. In addition, there is a 12-page section dealing with variations of the cerebral vasculature and miscellaneous matters not completely demonstrated elsewhere in the atlas. Also included are a list of 78 relevant references and an anatomical index to the transparencies. The reels can be used in a small individual viewer but a stereoscopic projector and spectacles are available for group teaching.

The preparation of casts of the cerebral structures is an exacting task, and fragility hinders their use as teaching aids. The author is to be congratulated therefore, both for producing casts with such satisfying detail, and for choosing this method of making them widely available. Although the price may appear to be disproportionately high, the book is of immense educational value and is recommended to all interested in the radiological anatomy of the brain.

J. L. STEVEN

PROGRESS IN NEUROPATHOLOGY, Volume 1 Edited by H. M. Zimmerman. (Pp. 316; illustrated; £10.80.) Heinemann: London. 1971.

This is a collection of 12 chapters written by various authors or groups of authors, the majority in the United States. A reader attracted by the title might expect each essay to be a review of progress in some main area of neuropathological research in the last