These are all things that can be put right and in spite of them the book as a whole is excellent and will be valuable reading for the ophthalmologist or the neurologist.

C. J. EARL

ESSAYS ON TEMPERATURE REGULATION By J. Bligh and R. Moore. (Pp. 205; illustrated; HFL. 40.00.) North-Holland: London-Amsterdam. 1972.

These essays are based on invited lectures given at Trinity College, Dublin in 1971, and combine a review of the literature with the authors' own researches. To ensure rapid publication the original typescripts have been reproduced. A lot of attention is devoted to details of various models, mechanical, mathematical, and electrical, which have been proposed to describe the behaviour of our body temperature control systems. Response to stress by external heat and cold are considered and also the response to the internal heat produced by exercise. Possible alterations in set-point of the body 'thermostat' are considered. It seems likely that the set-point is raised in fever due to the pyrogen released during infection, that is that during fever the body continues to react in the usual way to hot and cold stress, but tends to keep body temperature at an unusually high level. Other chapters deal with central transmitters, adrenaline, noradrenaline and 5-hydroxy tryptamine, and with evidence for deep thermosensitive structures outside the hypothalamus. It is argued that these may exist among other places in the spinal cord. This possibility requires further investigation in man, particularly those with tetraplegia.

J. M. K. SPALDING

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS IN PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY By Jorge C. Lagos. (Pp. 346; illustrated; £6.50.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1971.

Guides to differential diagnosis appeal to the student and non-expert. They have acquired an air of disreputability as though there were something underhand about reaching a diagnosis without the long apprenticeship of formal study. It might be argued that this is the logical approach to diagnosis as this is how illness presents. The conventional textbook assumes the correct diagnosis as a prerequisite.

Dr. Lagos has tackled the problem by devoting a short chapter to each of the common presentations of neurological illness in childhood. The specific conditions are then briefly described showing how the presenting symptoms relate to the more general pathology. There is no instruction in the method of reaching a diagnosis, nor is there any real discussion of the distinction between one condition and another.

One looks up the chapter with the appropriate title, for example, 'abnormal movement and posture', and checks through the 21 conditions described. The accounts of the individual diseases, occupying from a few lines to several pages, are orthodox and to the point. The two chapters on epilepsy, 'Seizures in the neonate' and 'Seizures in infancy and childhood' are particularly successful, giving practical advice based on informed theory.

The format of this book makes it unsuitable for reference and it does not foster a logical interest in the diseases or related conditions. I do not think that it is a book for medical students, but it would be of use to the practitioner with wider experience yet irregular contact with paediatric neurology.

IVAN T. DRAPER

A PRIMER IN NEUROLOGICAL STAINING PROCEDURES By George Clark and Margaret Clark. (Pp. 74; illustrated; price not stated.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1971.

As the authors are of the opinion that it is difficult to obtain instruction in the specialized techniques applicable to the nervous system, they have written this book for the experimental neurologist who wishes to become competent in selected neuro-histological techniques. After dealing with fixation with particular emphasis on perfusion techniques there are chapters on the production of celloidin, paraffin, and frozen sections. Then a selected group of staining techniques are dealt with in detail, namely, the Nissl method using cresyl violet, modification of Spielmeyer's technique for myelin, the Swank-Davenport modification of the Marchi technique, and the methods of Nauta, Golgi, Bodian, and Cajal. Finally there are some observations on the use of haematoxylin and eosin, and the Van Gieson and Masson techniques. The book is clearly and concisely written and contains much useful information on the techniques selected. It can be said, therefore, that the authors have been commendably successful in achieving their object in the very limited field they have chosen. It will not replace working at the bench with an experienced neuro-histological technician.

J. HUME ADAMS

NEUROPSYCHOLOGIE DE LA PERCEPTION VISUELLE Edited by Henri Hécaen. (Pp. 319; 83 figures, 17 tables; 110f.) Masson: Paris. 1972.

This is a collection of 18 papers written in French by authors from several countries. Each is based on a seminar given in Paris during 1969-70 as part of Professor Hécaen's course on the neuropsychology of visual perception—a very interesting course if this