SURGICAL DISORDERS OF THE PERIPHERAL NERVES By Sir Herbert Seddon. (Pp. 332; illustrated; £8-00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1972.

Few surgeons in civilian practice have extensive experience of peripheral nerve surgery, and those with second world war experience are nearing retirement. The doyen of nerve surgery has now provided exactly the shelf reference required in a book of reasonable size, clearly presented and beautifully illustrated. Neurologists may find the section on electrodiagnosis rather insufficient. Although the chapter on methods mentions the use of conduction velocity measurements in the diagnosis of compression lesions of nerves, this valuable technique is not mentioned in the section on the carpal tunnel syndrome. The controversy regarding primary suture goes on and will only be resolved by a genuine controlled trial as advocated by Sir Herbert.

J. A. SIMPSON

L'ATLAS DE LA VASCULARISATION ARTÉRIELLE DU CERVEAU CHEZ L'HOMME (ATLAS OF THE ARTERIES OF THE HUMAN BRAIN) By Georges Salamon. (Pp. 189; illustrated.) Medical Information Department, Sandoz Laboratories: France.

Professor Salamon and his collaborators from the Department of Research in Neuroradiology and Microradiology, Marseilles, have produced a beautiful atlas of the cerebral circulation of man based on selective injections of red lead or barium in gelatine into appropriate cerebral arteries of unfixed brain removed within a few hours after death. Photographs of brain sections cut in the frontal, horizontal, and sagittal planes are accompanied by angiographic transparencies which can be superimposed on the section or viewed alongside it. The result is a unique and valuable study of vascular territories.

The brief but adequate text is in French and English and includes the *Nomina Anatomica* nomenclature. There is a good index.

J. A. SIMPSON

DIE POSTVAKZINALE ENZEPHALOPATHIE By W. Ehrengut, J. Ehrengut-Lange, D. Seitz, and G. Weber. (Pp. 128; DM 29.) Schattauer: Stuttgart. 1972.

This slim volume of pocket size contains an analysis of 488 cases of neurological complications following primary vaccination during the first three years of life, based on notifications in West Germany during the years 1956–1965. The aim of the study is to define post-vaccinal encephalopathy as a clinical entity and to differentiate it from perivenous demyelinating leucoencephalitis on one hand, and from

febrile convulsions on the other. A highly successful follow-up reveals a high incidence of neurological sequelae and enables the authors to pin-point some prognostic criteria. It is a thorough and thoughtful clinical and statistical study but with some important gaps. Electroencephalography is perfunctorily dismissed in a short and uninformative paragraph. Pathology is reduced to a minimum compatible with credibility. Yet a detailed and fully illustrated account of the post-mortem findings in their 37 proven, 29 probable and 15 doubtful cases would have been of considerable interest. Perhaps the time is not yet ripe for an authoritative monograph on the post-infective encephalopathies of infancy and childhood. If that is the case, it is difficult to justify the publication of this work in book form. Suitably condensed it would make an admirable article in a neurological or paediatric journal, which would have the additional advantage of a wider readership.

H. URICH

HIBERNATION AND HYPOTHERMIA, PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES Edited by F. E. South. (Pp. 716; illustrated; Dfl. 70-00, \$ ca. 22-00.) Elsevier: Amsterdam. 1972.

The majority of papers in this collection are aimed at the biologist interested in comparative physiology and although the clinician may find them of general interest his practice is unlikely to be modified by the reading of them. The first section is concerned with the biochemical adaptation that poikilotherms and hibernators have made to enable them to survive at different temperatures. Judging by the references and the acknowledgements for permission to reprint, much of the work presented has appeared before in specialist journals. The section on the ultrastructure of cardiac muscles in different species and on cardiac contraction is only marginally concerned with hibernation. The final two sections deal with the CNS and thermoregulation and the rhythmicity of temperature variation in hibernators. The latter is interesting but not new.

The papers that do overlap clinical experience are on the whole dated and disappointing. Mendler and his colleagues discussing cold-induced brain swelling pay insufficient attention to respiratory and circulatory factors affecting cerebral oedema. Mihalovic discussing cerebral electrical activity quotes papers from the 1950s that describe epileptiform EEG traces occurring during cooling and suggests that this is a possible effect of curare. This ignores the fact that this phenomenon was met in patients being cooled for cardiac surgery and by the early 1960s was generally agreed to be associated with hypocapnoeic cerebral vasoconstriction.