Book reviews

NEUROLOGY OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT DISEASES By Charles H. Edwards. (Pp. 305; £6.) Butterworths: London. 1973.

I have enjoyed reading this little book. It is always rewarding to learn from a colleague who has made a special study of a branch of neurology in which one feels ignorant. But it is infuriating to find major deficiencies in exactly those areas where it is useful to have a book at one's elbow. Surely one would expect to find, in a book with this title, detailed information about audiometry and loudness recruitment in neurological diagnosis. Bell's palsy is doubtfully otological, but at least one should find the best of electrodiagnostic work referred to and some guidance on the indications for surgery. Are any of the widely marketed drugs of proven value in Ménière's disease? I still do not know. This book could be so valuable. Perhaps a new edition would fill the gaps and give a better bibliography and index.

J. A. SIMPSON

ADVANCES IN OTO-RHINO LARYNGOLOGY: CURRENT STUDIES IN OTONEUROLOGY. Edited by C. R. Pfaltz, H. O. Barber, and J. M. Fredrickson. (Pp. 376; illustrated; FR. 19.55.) Karger: Basle. 1973.

With this volume 19 in the series *Advances in Oto-Rhino Laryngology* are published the papers delivered at the meeting of the Barany Society, held in Toronto in August 1971.

There are 35 contributions from over 80 authors, mostly from North America and Europe, devoted to current researches in otoneurology and allied sciences, covering laboratory and clinical aspects. The address of the guest of honour, Dr. G. von Békésy, is a scholarly monograph entitled 'Sense organs and their sensitivity' in which he discusses the difficulties and pitfalls in making biological threshold measurements of sensory perception in living organisms. The remainder of the articles cater for a wide field of interest and the organizers are to be congratulated on the range of topics selected for presentation. These are classified under section headings entitled anatomy, experiments on peripheral receptors, vestibular neurophysiology, neurochemistry, central vestibular system, nystagmus instrumentation, vestibular studies in normal humans, and clinical studies.

The volume is well produced, in spite of a curious

mixture of qualities of paper and the printers have excelled in the reproduction of figures and the quality of the photographs.

Otoneurology is now well established as a specialty in many hospitals, institutes, and universities and with the regular occurrence of teaching courses, symposia and meetings devoted to it, together with their relevant publications, it can fairly be said to have come of age.

NEIL T. BRATTEN

E.E.G. OF HUMAN SLEEP: CLINICAL APPLICATIONS By R. L. Williams, I. Karacan, and C. J. Hirsch. (Pp. 169; illustrated; £8.) Wiley: Chichester. 1974.

This book achieves all the aims envisaged by the authors in the introduction—in particular, to serve as an atlas of the electroencephalogram of human sleep for the clinician. It traces the history of human sleep research and briefly presents the current EEG methods used in this field. The major section of the book represents the results of an intensive 10 year study by the authors of normal human sleep patterns of age and sex matched subjects between the ages of 3 and 79 years. The results are discussed extensively in addition to being presented graphically and in tabular form. Relevant examples of EEG and EOG tracings are also illustrated. The chapter on clinical sleep disorders presents a practical review of the literature on this subject.

This book is exceptionally readable and, while concise, it remains informative. It must be regarded as invaluable as a basic reference atlas on human sleep, not only to those directly involved in sleep research, but to all clinicians.

ANNE P. MCGEORGE

SOMATOSENSORY SYSTEM. Vol. 2 of HANDBOOK OF SENSORY PHYSIOLOGY Edited by A. Iggo. (Pp. 851; illustrated; DM. 262.) Springer: Berlin. 1973.

No investigation of disorders of motor function is now complete without quantitative studies by electrophysiology. Not least of the value is the elimination of the subjective element in the patient-doctor interchange. It would be a major advance for clinical neurology if objective techniques could be devised for assessment of sensation and its disorders. This has not yet been achieved, but the essential groundwork