of the patient—in 59 patients with complete cervical lesions, 16 improved neurologically, some as late as three to five weeks after injury.

Running through the book we have an insight into the attitudes and philosophy of the author concerning 'spinal man'. Sir Ludwig has played a major role in changing the morbidity and the mortality of spinal cord injury patients by introducing new concepts of management, and by arousing and developing hitherto dormant talents in the severely disabled person. The book can be recommended as essential reading for those who are involved with the care of the seriously disabled, and is a fundamental text for all who are interested in spinal cord injury patients.

PHILLIP HARRIS

NEURO-PATHOLOGY OF VISION. AN ATLAS By Richard Lindenberg, Frank B. Walsh, and Jod G. Sachs. (Pp. 500; illustrated; £15.75.) Lea and Febiger: Philadelphia. 1973.

A leading neuropathologist, the world's most experienced clinical neuro-ophthalmologist and a young energetic neuro-ophthalmologist with an interest in pathology have devoted their expertise to the compilation of this *Atlas*.

Intended as an aid to topical and differential diagnosis, this book is seen as a supplement to other major clinical textbooks. The organization is, therefore, into anatomical subsections rather than disease processes, and progresses from the optic disc to the calcarine cortex. The major part of the book is devoted to the optic disc, the optic nerve and the chiasmal region where a unique amount of material and pathological information is accumulated. The photographs of pathological sections have been painstakingly prepared, though the accompanying commentary could have been prepared for the reader in a more presentable way. This does not detract from the content, which is superb and includes case presentations with numerous pertinent references to the literature. Historical vignettes such as the necropsy findings on Abraham Lincoln, fundus photographs, and diagrams further enhance this volume.

This book fulfils a most important role, contributes a fund of knowledge to those concerned with disorders of the visual system, and is strongly recommended.

M. D. SANDERS

MUSCLE RELAXANTS By S. A. Feldman. (Pp. 190; illustrated; £4.) Saunders: London. 1973.

This book is the first of a series of monographs on major problems in anaesthesia and it reviews the pharmacology and clinical use of muscle relaxant agents with particular reference to their use in anaes-

thesia. It is primarily written for anaesthetists and, as such, certain matters of interest to neurologists such as the use of relaxants in treating spasticity are not included but there is a chapter on myasthenia gravis and the myasthenic syndrome. Within its field it is reasonably comprehensive and after an initial historical chapter and a section on the physiology of muscular transmission there are detailed sections on different aspects of the pharmacology of relaxant agents with a final section giving a general review of their clinical use in anaesthesia. Although at times the style is somewhat compressed, it is well documented and should prove a useful work of reference in an expanding field.

J. A. R. LENMAN

RORSCHACH RESPONSES IN OLD AGE By L. B. Ames, R. W. Metraux, J. L. Rodell, and R. N. Walker. (Pp. 219; £5.50.) Butterworth: London. 1973.

This revised edition presents the up-dated and slightly extended results of an investigation into the performance of elderly persons on the Rorschach ink-blot test. The earlier report was itself a follow-up to a similar study in children, the principal aim being to determine the similarities and differences in patterns of functioning at the two extremes of the age continuum.

The main study involved a sample of 200 elderly persons in the three decades of life from 70 to 100. The subject sample is a selected one in so far as only 'reasonably healthy, active and alert' persons were included, senile demented being specifically excluded. In the initial analysis, no systematic relationship was discovered between increasing age and Rorschach test performance. The subjects were therefore divided into three groups—that is, normals, preseniles, and seniles—on the basis of the general clinical impression obtained from their Rorschach performance. Specific Rorschach signs in these three groups were then analysed and compared. Although this method of analysis is obviously circular, the authors defend it on the grounds that the discovery of relatively homogeneous groups is the most important concern.

While the book provides many valuable clinical observations on elderly persons, it does little to advance our scientific knowledge of the processes involved. The main flaw is undoubtedly the almost exclusive use of the Rorschach test itself: its vagaries include among other things problems of scoring and interpretation, reliability and validity, none of which is discussed in any detail. The book will probably have a wide appeal for enthusiastic Rorschach testers but only limited interest for the non-specialist in the technique.

PETER SLADE